MARVEL MASTERWORKS®
DAREDEVIL®
VOLUME 7

DAREDEVIL Nos. 64-74
& THE INVINCIBLE IRON MAN Nos. 35-36
ROY THOMAS & GENE COLAN
WITH GERRY CONWAY

MARVEL

MARVEL MASTERWORKS

PRESENTS

VOLUME 7

COLLECTING

DAREDEVIL Nos. 64-74

& THE INVINCIBLE IRON MAN Nos. 35-36

ROY THOMAS • GENE COLAN

WITH GERRY CONWAY

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MARVEL MASTERWORKS
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NOS. 64-74 & THE INVINCIBLE IRON MAN NOS. 35-36

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CONTENTS

Introduction by Roy Thomas . . . . . *vi*

Daredevil #64, May 1970
"Suddenly…the Stunt-Master!" 1

Daredevil #65, June 1970
"The Killing of Brother Brimstone" 20

Daredevil #66, July 1970
"…And One Cried Murder!" 40

Daredevil #67, August 1970
"Stilt-Man Stalks the Soundstage" 60

Daredevil #68, September 1970
"Phoenix and the Fighter!" 80

Daredevil #69, October 1970
"A Life on the Line" 100

Daredevil #70, November 1970
"The Tribune" 120

Daredevil #71, December 1970
"If an Eye Offend Thee…!" 140

Daredevil #72, January 1971
"Lo! The Lord of the Leopards!" 160

The Invincible Iron Man #35, March 1971
"Revenge!" 180

Daredevil #73, February 1971
"Behold…the Brotherhood!" 200

An excerpt from *The Invincible Iron Man #36, April 1971*
"…Among Men Stalks the Ramrod!" 220

Daredevil #74, March 1971
"In the Country of the Blind!" 230

INTRODUCTION
BY ROY THOMAS

Sometimes even *I* forget that I wrote *Daredevil*.

And not only wrote it—but inherited it directly from cocreator Stan Lee himself, after he'd written the series' first fifty issues.

What's more, for the nearly score of issues I then scripted in a row, I got to work on the title with none other than Gene Colan—with whom I'd had so much fun working recently on our (admittedly doomed) *Doctor Strange* run.

Somehow, *Daredevil* is considered by some folks—wrongly, I think—as if the hero were nothing more than the poor man's Spider-Man. My own feeling is that, under Stan, Bill Everett, Joe Orlando, Wally Wood, John Romita, and Gene Colan, Daredevil became a lot more than that. If Fawcett Publications' original Golden Age Captain Marvel was more than simply Superman in a red-and-yellow costume—and I've always fiercely maintained that he *was*—then Daredevil, too, was more than just Spider-Man with a billy club instead of a webline. As created by Stan and Wild Bill, and then enhanced by Stan and the later artists, DD had to get by with a strength and agility level closer to that of Captain America and DC's Batman than to Spidey's. The wall-crawler's spider-sense, fun as it was to read, was only a made-up gimmick that owed little to any ability possessed by an actual eight-legged arachnid…while Matt Murdock's radar sense, et al., gave him a whole different range of sensory input that intrigued us readers. (And remember, I was a coin-paying reader for a dozen issues before I wandered into the hallowed halls of Marvel in 1965, virtually passing Wally Wood on his way out.)

For my own part, I hadn't sought the *Daredevil* assignment the way I had lusted after, say, *The Avengers*. But once Stan tossed me quite literally into the middle of a storyline he and new artist Barry Smith had dreamed up, I got enthusiastic about the title real fast.

Before diving into the stories you hold before you, I'd like to spend a brief moment on the stories from the *previous DD* volume. I was kinda proud of the *DD* #57 sequence in which Matt told Karen Page to unmask him (a scene more than one reader has told me was fraught with sexual overtones; thanks to them for noticing)…and even prouder of coming up with the previous issue's "KUDDA-LIK-KUDDA-LIK-KUDDA-LIK" as what I've always felt was a nice onomatopoetic approximation of the sound of a horse's galloping hooves. A most modest accomplishment, to be sure.

In #54 Gene's art was ably inked by George Klein. With #55, however, a new embellisher took over…one destined to have a long run on Colan's pencils. Syd Shores had begun his career as an inker of *Captain America Comics* back in the early 1940s, and had gone on to become one of the artistic stars of the Timely/Marvel bullpen of the '40s and '50s. After serving as Cap's main penciler during the hero's latter Golden Age days, he'd gone on to make his mark in nearly every non-humorous genre the company published: super hero (Vision, All Winners Squad, Blonde Phantom), Western (Black Rider, Kid Colt), war (Combat Kelly, Battle Brady, Sailor Sweeny), jungle (Lo-Zar, Unknown Jungle), crime…even one or two horror tales. Since coming back to Marvel in '67, he'd done more inking than penciling; even so, Syd's undenied strength was that he could draw, and draw really well—if not quite dramatically enough, in Stan's eyes, for him to pencil major hero features in the Marvel Age—and that made him an ideal inker for an artist whose work needed either touching up or clarifying. Gene's dynamic, yet often nigh-photographic work needed little of the latter, and just a tat of the former…so Syd swiftly became, at least in this writer/associate editor's mind's eye, one of Colan's better inkers.

Given all those warm thoughts about Gene, Syd, and *Daredevil*—and considering the high mark that Stan had set for me to maintain on the title—I kinda wish the first story in this volume (*DD* #64) featured some costumed baddie besides the Stunt-Master. I had lofty antecedents in mind when I came up with him as a character for Gene and me to play with: Joe Simon and Jack Kirby's late-'40s Stuntman, who'd been reprinted in the '50s—a hero with two secret identities (just as Matt Murdock had had for a time) and a Hollywood milieu to play around in. So we had Daredevil fly to Los Angeles, a city that I had visited for the first time only a few months earlier, in summer of '69—partly to see Hollywood, but mostly so that I and new Los Angelino Gary Friedrich, my old friend and fellow Marvel writer, could drive across the desert to Las Vegas to get an in-person glimpse of Elvis Presley, the first time "the King" played Vegas after his 1968 TV "comeback." (He was great. Thank you…thank you very much.)

I immersed myself in L.A. lore to some extent, even if I little dreamed that only half a dozen years later I would move there for a decade and a half (and find my beautiful wife Dann as a bonus). I was very much enamored with Stan's original concept of centering the Marvel Universe in the very real city of New York rather than in Metropolis or Gotham City; still, it seemed time to branch out a bit. Why should all the heroes live and work in Manhattan? And if they did, wouldn't that just encourage super villains who wanted to avoid capture to ply their trade in other places? A year or two hence, writer Gerry Conway would, with my blessing, move Daredevil lock, stock, and billy club to San Francisco…but his little sojourn in Tinseltown came first.

Maybe, by mentally meandering, I've been hoping to avoid mentioning that I feel in retrospect as if the Stunt-Master wound up being a fairly lame villain. Still, I recall that Gene enjoyed drawing a motorcycle-riding bad-guy. After all, it hadn't been too long before that Gene himself had purchased a motorcycle and had a ball riding it around—until he had his first little "crashie-washie" and suddenly realized what it would mean to his drawing career (and income) if he injured his right hand. That had been the end, and rather quickly, too, of Gene's dreams of being the next Marlon Brando "Wild One"!

The next storyline (#65-66) I was considerably happier with, introducing as it did the TV (and comic book "real life") villain called Brother Brimstone. That character, and the situation, had two geneses. The first was the TV gothic soap opera *Dark Shadows*, of which I had become an avid follower, primarily because of the vampire Barnabas Collins, played to the hilt by Jonathan Frid. In fact, on the days I was writing at home instead of at the Marvel offices, staffers (except Stan, of course!) were forbidden to phone me between 4:00 and 4:30 P.M., when the show aired. (And if you ask why I simply didn't *record* the show and watch it later, you are a person of no historical knowledge or perspective, so I won't even deign to respond.)

The other thread of the story arc was Robert Aldrich's 1968 film *The Killing of Sister George*, which dealt with the plans of some hard-hearted executives to "kill off" a popular character in a TV soap opera. Put the two together, and you had "The Killing of Brother Brimstone!" I reveled in the twin roots of my inspiration. I didn't even mind that Gene drew the makeup-enhanced Brother Brimstone actor with what I felt was more than a passing resemblance to Jonathan Frid's Barnabas.

The whole storyline was enhanced by the fact that Karen Page had gone off to L.A. to star in the movies. I'd have winced, though, if I had known that, years later, another Marvel writer—in what I feel was a nadir of non-inspiration—had her career go so sour that she wound up making "adult"

movies. I've always felt that the Karen Page that Stan and I wrote for something like 70 issues would never have sunk so low. (Still, human beings are capable of doing so much more—for better and for worse—than we think of them as doing, so who can truly say?)

My own favorite moment in that two-parter occurred in #66, with Daredevil trapped in the La Brea Tar Pits. When I first came to L.A. in 1969, the main two things I wanted to see were not the Hollywood Walk of Fame or Disneyland. They were Griffith Observatory and the La Brea Tar Pits. The former because it was the setting of a famous knife-fight in the James Dean-staring 1955 film *Rebel Without a Cause* (which I've seen twenty times if I've seen it once)—the latter because, when I was a listening enrapt to the great comedian Bob Hope on the radio, he seldom let a chance slip by to joke about the La Brea Tar Pits. Only thing is, he never explained precisely what they *were*, so I had to look that up years later. Once I did, and given my dilettante interest in beasts primeval, I swore that one day I'd visit that famous site. I don't recall if I sent Gene photos of the tar pits or if he dug them up on his own, but he did a pretty fair job of rendering them.

As to what *happened* there in *DD* #66, my memory is a bit foggy…but boy, those tar pits looked great!

One minor fly in the ointment: I did kinda wish, at this point, that Gene was drawing the *Daredevil* covers. But his covers, admittedly, weren't always as clear as Stan and publisher Martin Goodman wanted them, so they tended to be drawn by Marie Severin and others. I don't recall if Gene ever complained about not being allowed to draw the covers…or whether perhaps he was glad to be relieved of the responsibility, so he could race ahead on the story.

No *DD* story after the "Brother Brimstone" arc warms my memory as much as it does, but I did enjoy many things about the series: Gene's art, of course…the fact that Matt could now let his hair down with Karen…even a chance to write the nutty super-baddie called the Stilt-Man. Well, actually, while I wrote the synopsis for *DD* #67, I must've gotten busy at that stage, because I got Gary Friedrich to dialogue the story. It was a harbinger of things to come. Maybe I had him script it because I'd also yielded to the temptation to use the Stunt-Master again, and was beginning to realize that I didn't really like writing that character much.

About #68 and its villain The Phoenix I recall little, except that I rather enjoyed the boxing subplot. The name of the fighter Kid Gawaine came from *Kid Galahad*, a 1962 flick in which Elvis Presley sang some lackluster songs in between rounds. No fan of the "sweet sport" itself, I often enjoy *films* about boxing, especially the 1956 *The Harder They Fall*, Humphrey Bogart's last movie.

It was fun bringing the Black Panther in for a guest shot in #69, too, in order to play "compare and contrast" with the two heroes' powers and modus operandi, and to do a "socially relevant" story.

However, I was coming to an end of *Daredevil* days. With Stan's okay, I turned #70's writing entirely over to Gary and his villainous judge the Tribune. If #69 had intended to make a tentative statement on race relations and similar matters, Gary jumped in with both feet (and why shouldn't he have?) to offer a story with a ripped-from-today's-headlines feel, in that era of civil unrest. Still, with #71 I was back to wind up the two-parter all by my lonesome. For the life of me, though, when I re-read the story, I can't recall a single detail about doing it…and if my name weren't there on the splash page, I wouldn't be certain that I wrote it.

When the time came—for whatever now-forgotten reason—for me to permanently quit scripting *Daredevil*, Stan and I turned it over to relative newcomer Gerry Conway. And he handled himself well on it from the start, even if Tagak the Leopard Lord in #72 wasn't going to make anyone forget about Dr. Doom. (*Stunt-Master*, now—yeah, it might've made folks forget about *him!*) With Gene handling the pencils and Syd applying the inks, the mag continued to roll along happily.

At about this time, staffer Allyn Brodsky, who for some forgotten reason had plotted *Daredevil* #73 and who'd been writing *Iron Man* for a few issues, departed…and Gerry took over that mag, as well, with its 35th issue. If you happen to notice the cover dates on these issues, you're liable to get a bit confused, because although *DD* #73 has a Feb. 1971 cover date, it clearly occurs after the cliffhanger events of *Iron Man* #35, which is dated March '71. I'd totally forgotten this apparent paradox, but *Marvel Masterworks* editor Cory Sedlmeier reminded me certain titles, *Daredevil* included, were cover-dated a month behind Marvel's other titles. At the same time a September-dated *FF*, *Amazing Spider-Man*, *Strange Tales*, *Tales to Astonish*, or *Tales of Suspense* came out, the issue of *Journey Into Mystery/Thor*, *The Avengers*, *Sgt. Fury*, or *Daredevil* would have an August cover date. All this was balanced out in late 1971 when the "behind" titles skipped a cover month, but not publication, and caught up to the rest of the pack.

It was doubtless Allyn who concocted the storyline which wove back and forth between the two mags, bringing back the Zodiac villain-group that Sal Buscema and I had developed earlier in *The Avengers*—just as Sal and I had built on Jim Steranko's classic Scorpio tales in his fabled run on *Nick Fury, Agent of S.H.I.E.L.D.* Even with Iron Man's sometime sparring-partner Madame Masque as their ally, the Man Without Fear and Shell-head were clearly outnumbered. Guess that's why it took nearly two and a half issues for them to triumph. (Only the first eight pages of *Iron Man* #36 are reprinted in this volume, 'cause DD exits his Avenger buddy's mag at that point. Fortunately for you, if you want to read that entire issue, it was reprinted a couple of years ago in *Marvel Masterworks: The Invincible Iron Man*, Vol. 7. We wouldn't want you to suffer any undue stress over the matter.)

Fittingly, though, this book you hold in your calloused hands does manage to conclude with an actual issue of *Daredevil*—#74, in which virtually all Manhattanites suddenly go blind—without Matt Murdock's other four heightened senses to help them make it through the night. Being New Yorkers, though—like writer Gerry himself—they come through it just fine, and several of them wind up helping DD at a crucial moment. A nice little one-shot story, making good use of Daredevil's particular situation.

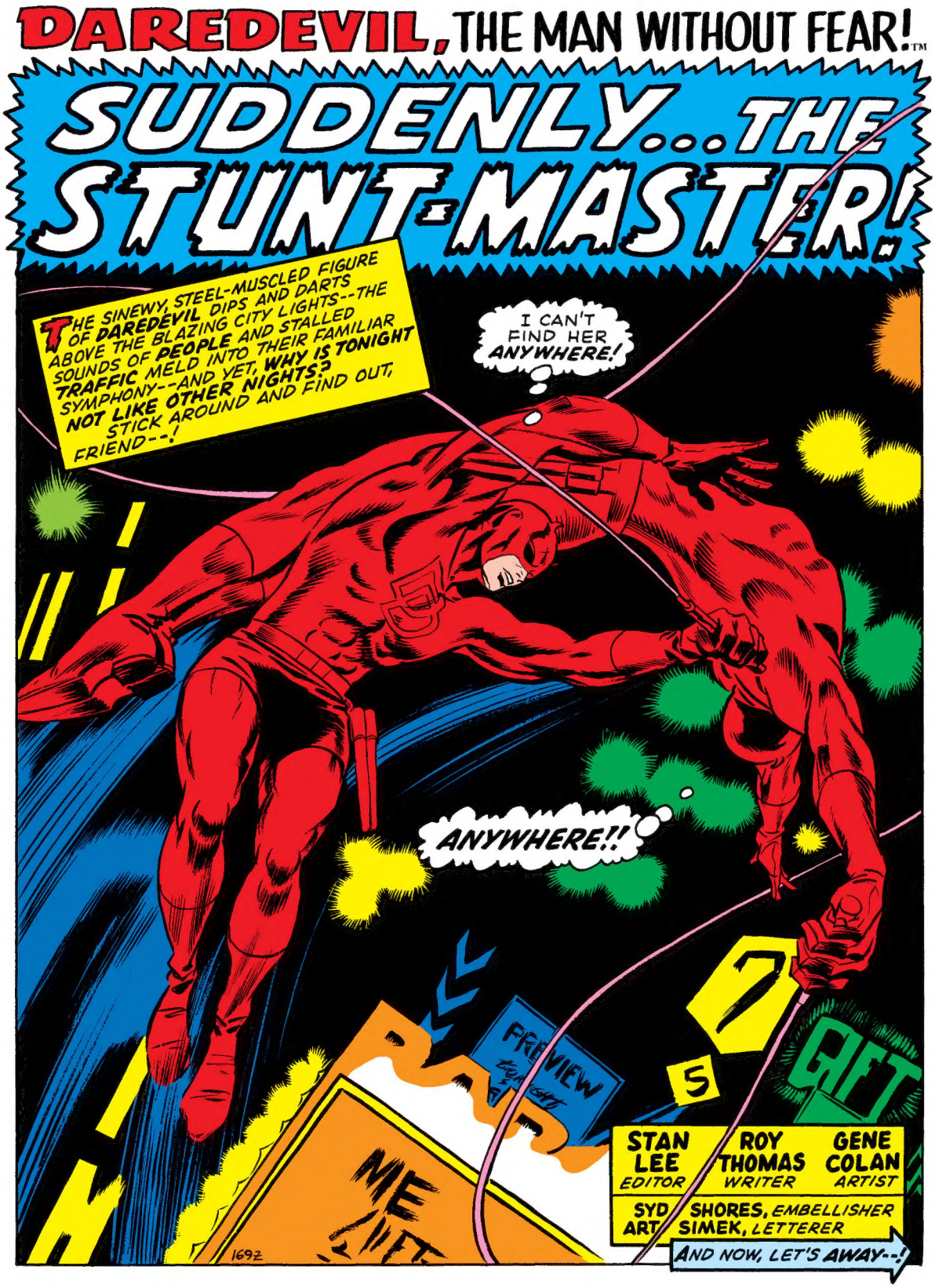
But Gerry, a young man determined (and why shouldn't he have been?) to make a name for himself in the wonderful world of comics, had only begun to take Daredevil on the journey he intended him to undergo—as you'll see the next time a *Marvel Masterworks: Daredevil* volume wends your way.

Pray for that to be *soon,* huh? You'll thank me for suggesting it!

2013

Roy Thomas has been a writer and editor in the comics field since 1965, far more often for Marvel, happily, than for any other company. He also thinks the 2003 Daredevil *movie deserves more respect than it received at the time or since. So sue him!*

DARE-DEVIL
15¢
64
MAY
MARVEL COMICS GROUP
DAREDEVIL
THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR!
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
YOU LOST THE GIRL YOU LOVE-- BUT YOU FOUND...
THE STUNT-MASTER!
YOU'RE AS GOOD AS DEAD, D.D.!
DAREDEVIL IN L.A.
DAILY MIRROR


DAREDEVIL, THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR!™
SUDDENLY...THE STUNT-MASTER!
THE SINEWY, STEEL-MUSCLED FIGURE OF DAREDEVIL DIPS AND DARTS ABOVE THE BLAZING CITY LIGHTS--THE SOUNDS OF PEOPLE AND STALLED TRAFFIC MELD INTO THEIR FAMILIAR SYMPHONY--AND YET, WHY IS TONIGHT NOT LIKE OTHER NIGHTS? STICK AROUND AND FIND OUT, FRIEND--!
I CAN'T FIND HER ANYWHERE!
ANYWHERE!!
PREVIEW
5
GET
STAN LEE EDITOR
ROY THOMAS WRITER
GENE COLAN ARTIST
SYD SHORES, EMBELLISHER
ART SIMEK, LETTERER
AND NOW, LET'S AWAY--!

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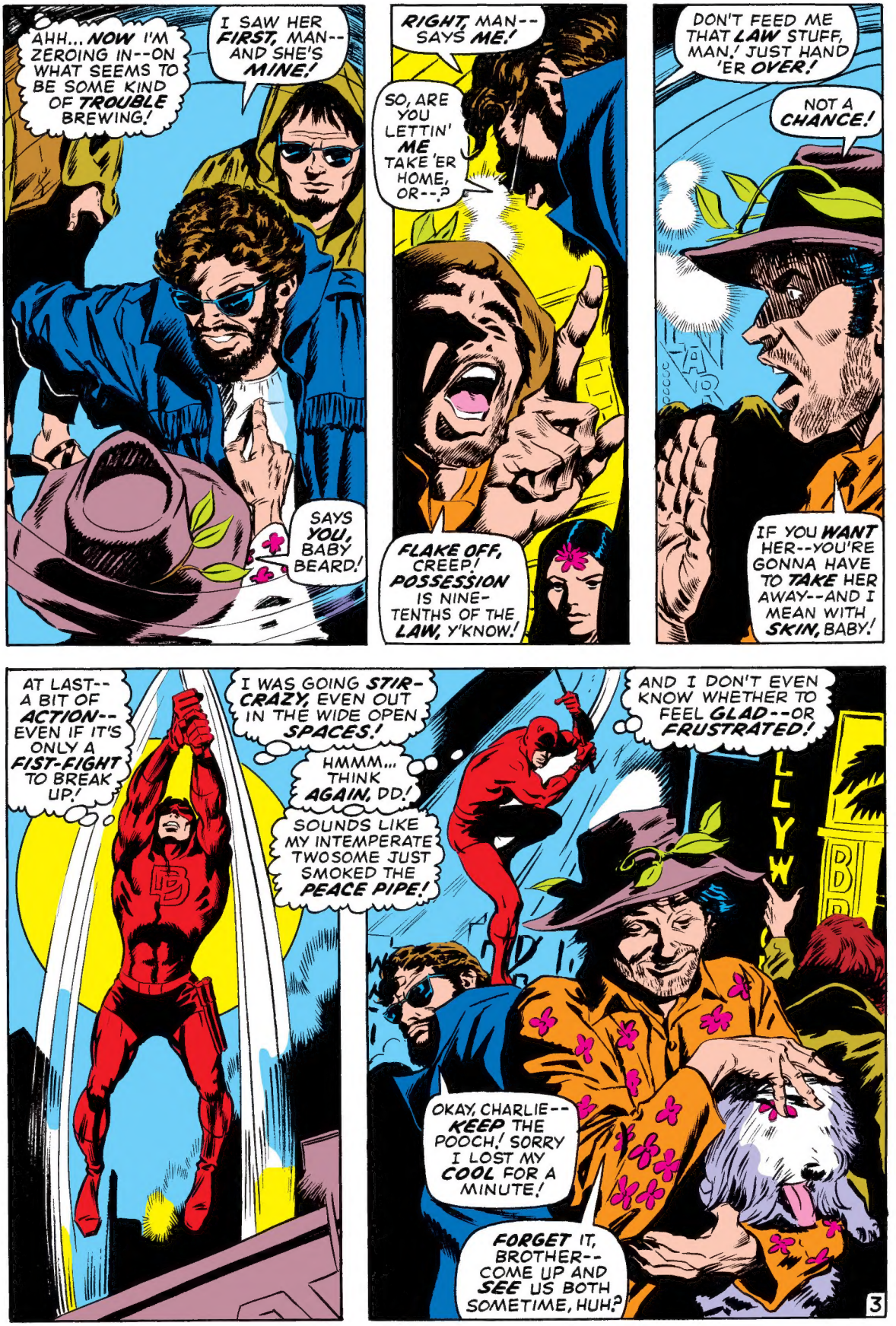
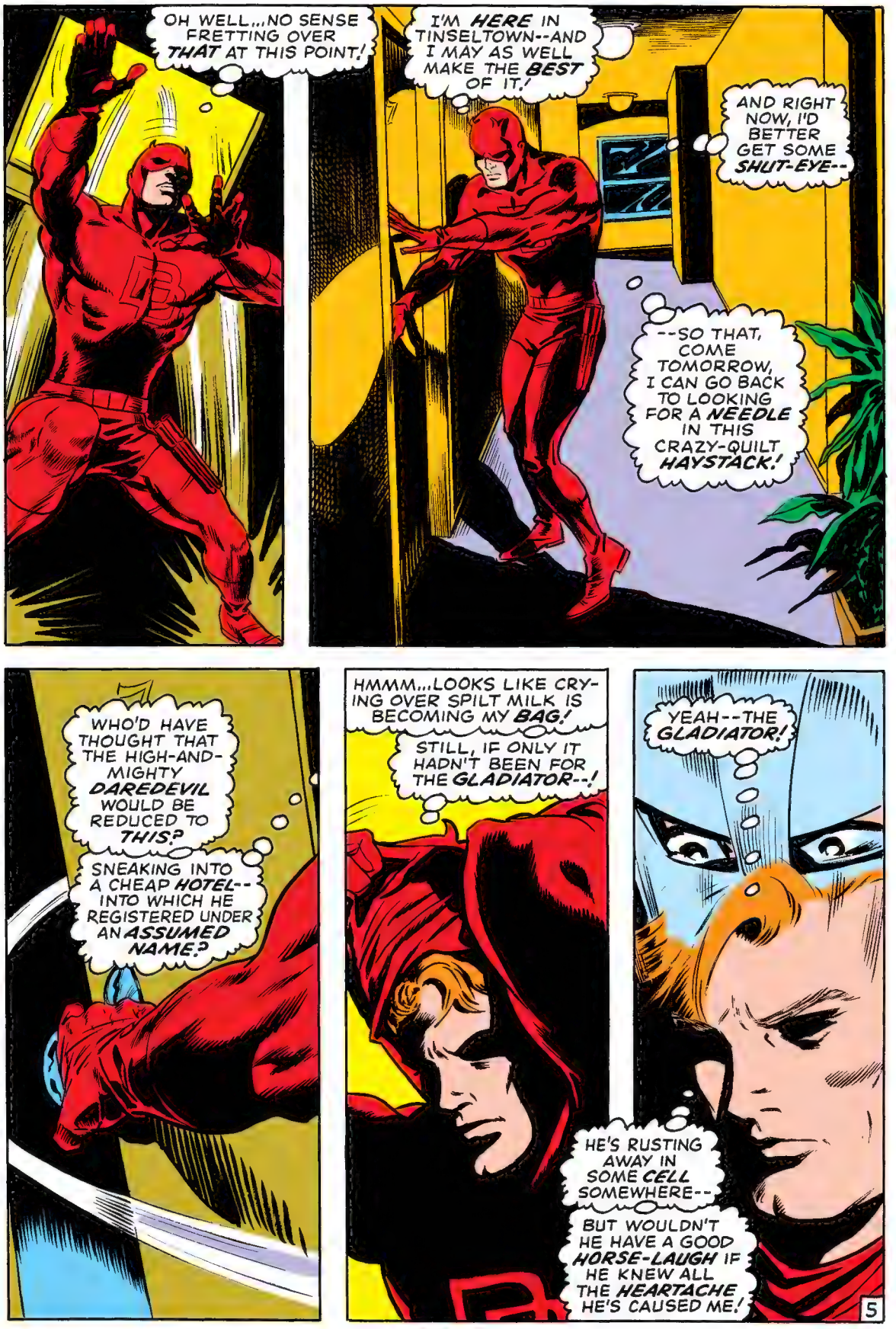
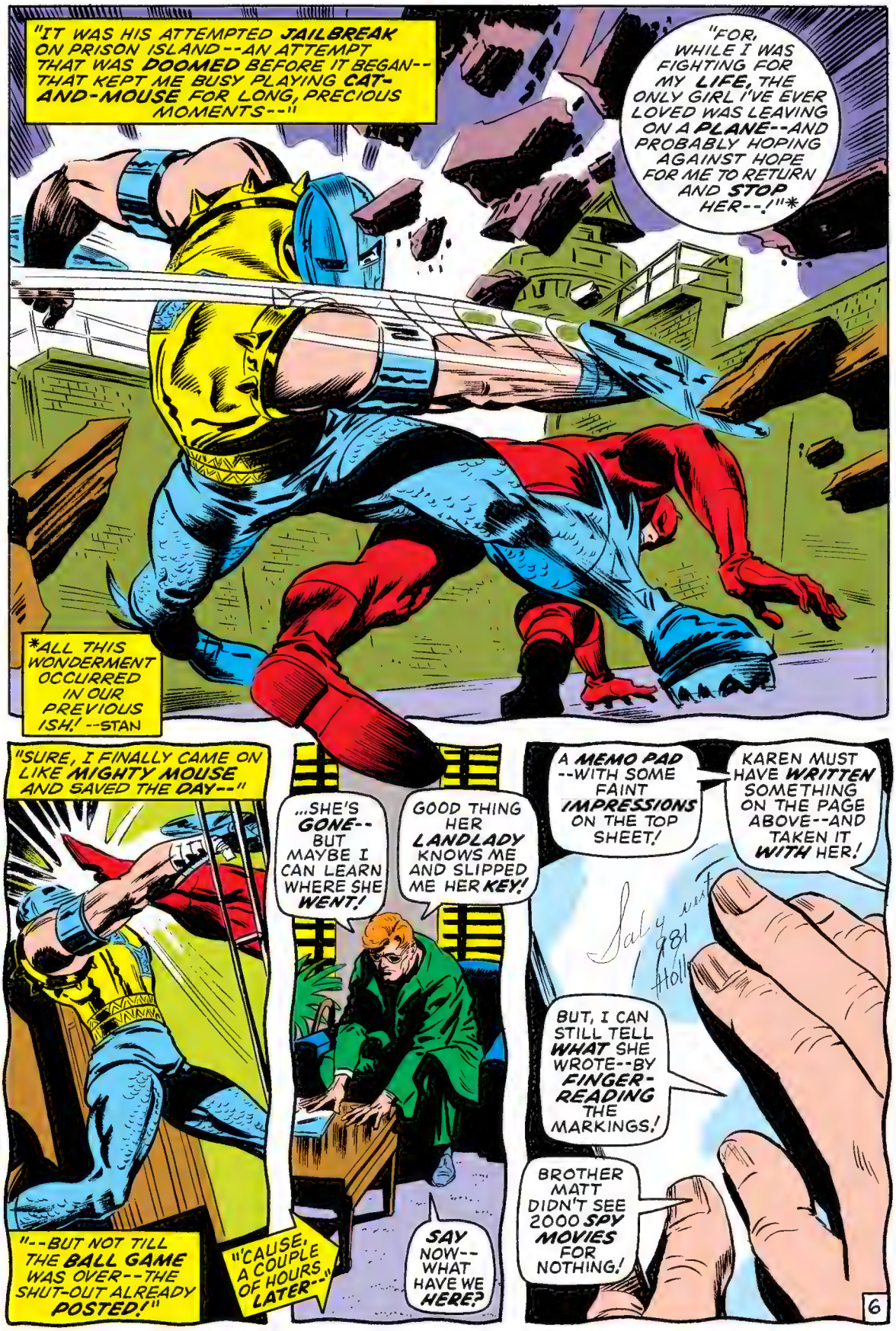
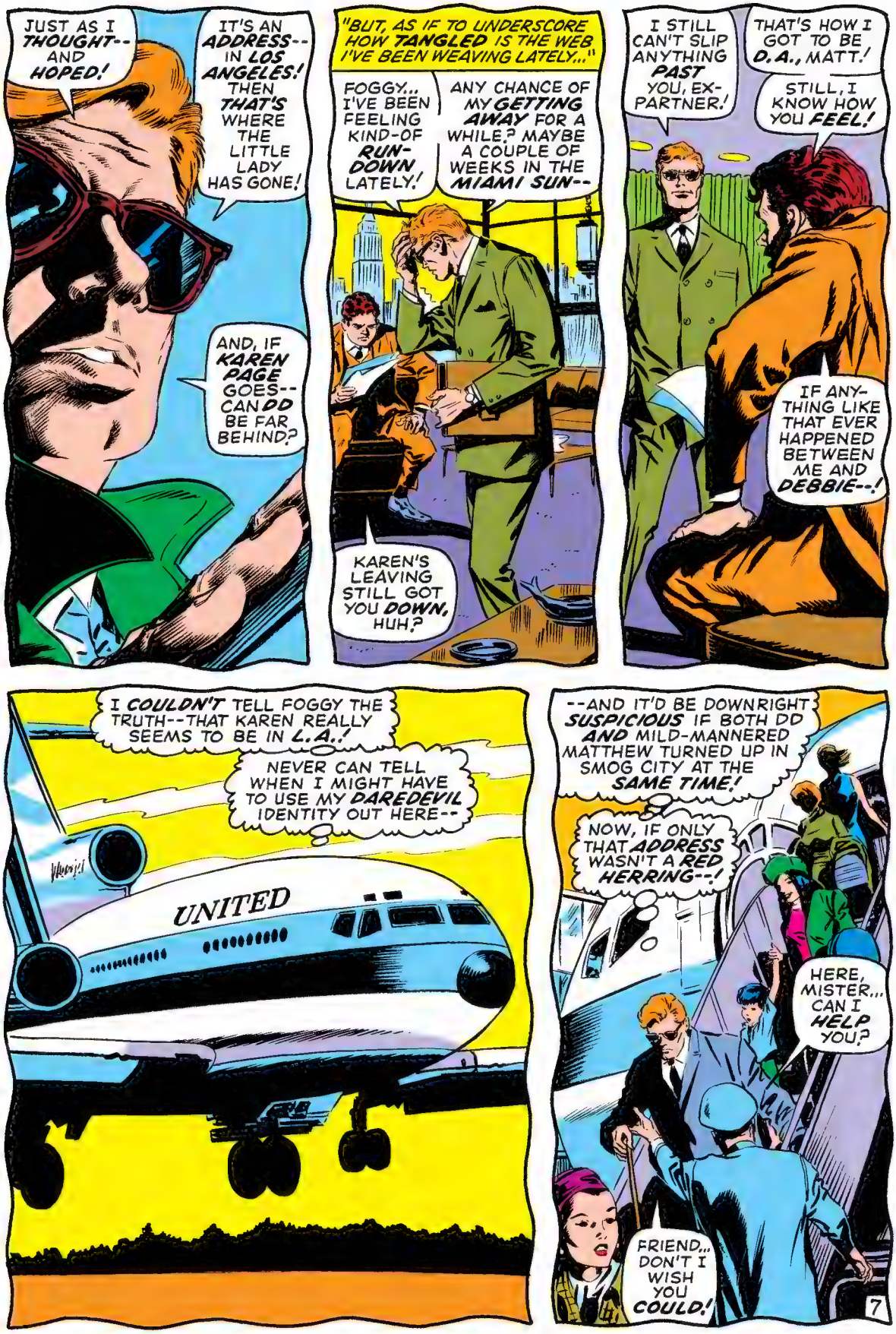
SOMEWHERE DOWN THERE--AMONG THE TEEMING MASSES--MAY BE THE GIRL I LOVE!
BUT, EVEN IF I COULD SEE--EVEN IF I WEREN'T PHYSICALLY BLIND--I'D BE HARD-PRESSED TO LOCATE HER!
AND, TRYING TO PICK OUT ONE HEART-BEAT FROM THE BABEL BELOW IS HOPELESS!
IF ONLY THERE'D BE SOME ACTION--ANYTHING--TO GET MY MIND OFF KAREN PAGE!
OH WELL... I MIGHT AS WELL CALL IT A NIGHT AND HIT THE SACK!
TOMORROW, AS SCARLETT O'HARA USED TO SAY, IS ANOTHER DAY!
WAIT A MINUTE!
TALKING ABOUT HEARTBEATS--I HEAR A COUPLE OF PULSES DOWN THERE THAT ARE RACING TO BEAT THE BAND!
A HOLD-UP--OR WHAT?? CAN'T QUITE SORT IT OUT!
OKAY, DD--GET YOUR EAR IN GEAR!
2

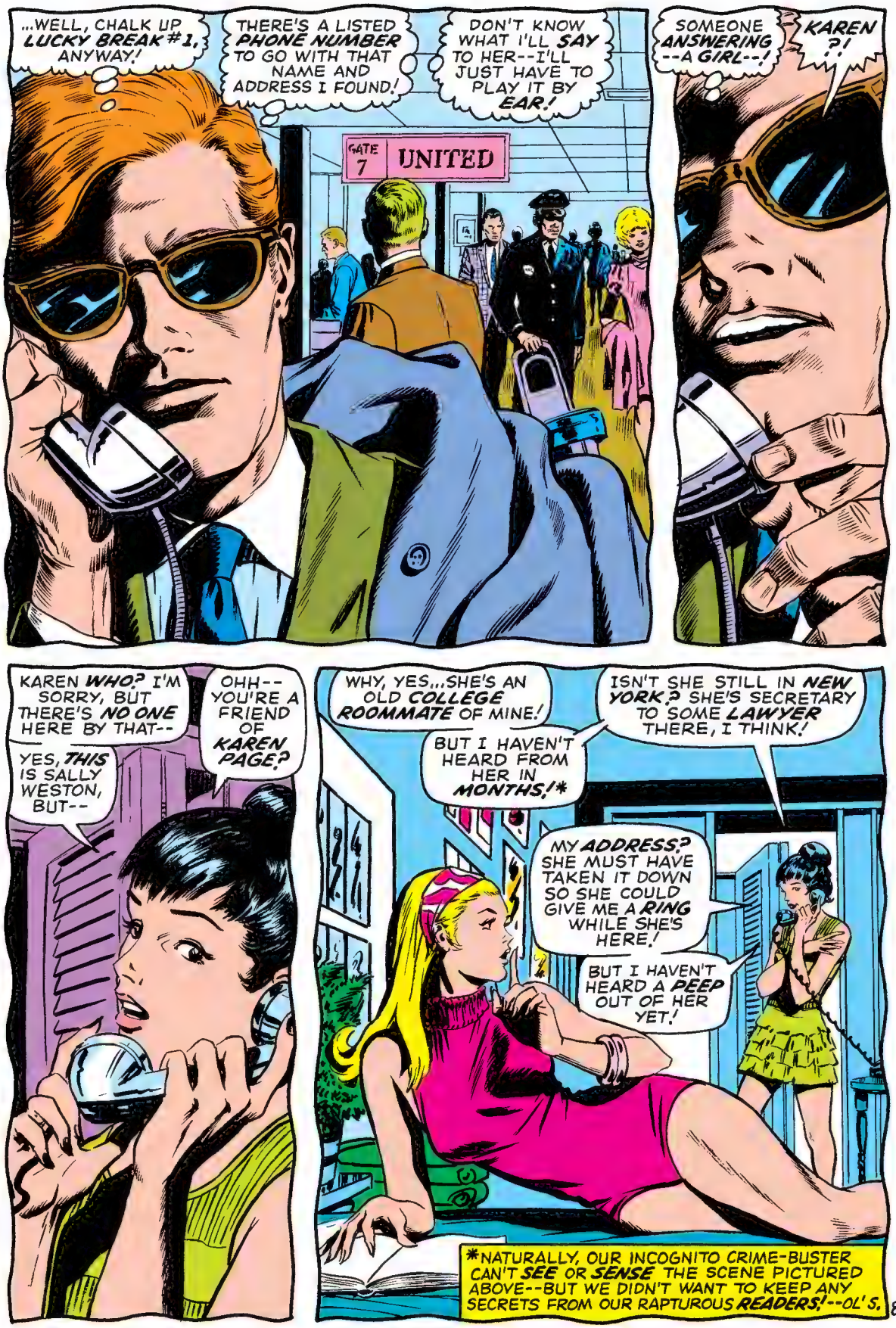

AHH... NOW I'M ZEROING IN--ON WHAT SEEMS TO BE SOME KIND OF TROUBLE BREWING!
I SAW HER FIRST, MAN--AND SHE'S MINE!
SAYS YOU, BABY BEARD!
RIGHT, MAN--SAYS ME!
SO, ARE YOU LETTIN' ME TAKE 'ER HOME, OR--?
FLAKE OFF, CREEP! POSSESSION IS NINE-TENTHS OF THE LAW, Y'KNOW!
DON'T FEED ME THAT LAW STUFF, MAN,' JUST HAND 'ER OVER!
NOT A CHANCE!
IF YOU WANT HER--YOU'RE GONNA HAVE TO TAKE HER AWAY--AND I MEAN WITH SKIN, BABY!
AT LAST--A BIT OF ACTION--EVEN IF IT'S ONLY A FIST-FIGHT TO BREAK UP!
I WAS GOING STIR-CRAZY, EVEN OUT IN THE WIDE OPEN SPACES!
HMMM... THINK AGAIN, DD!
SOUNDS LIKE MY INTEMPERATE TWOSOME JUST SMOKED THE PEACE PIPE!
AND I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHETHER TO FEEL GLAD--OR FRUSTRATED!
LLYW
OKAY, CHARLIE--KEEP THE POOCH,' SORRY I LOST MY COOL FOR A MINUTE!
FORGET IT, BROTHER--COME UP AND SEE US BOTH SOMETIME, HUH?
3

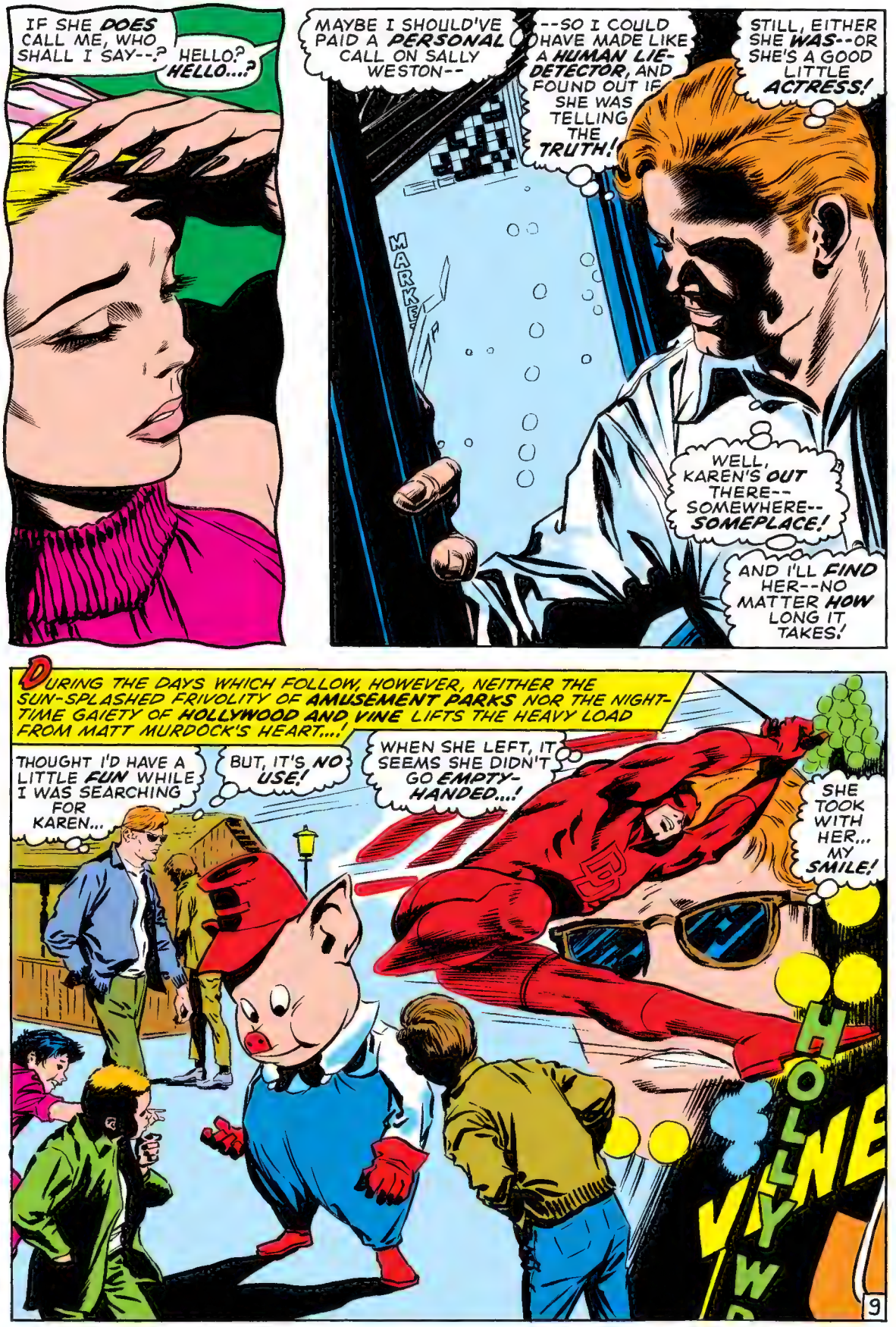
FEARLESS, MAYBE YOU OUGHT TO GO HANG UP THE OLD BILLY CLUB!
YOU'RE REALLY GETTING DESPERATE --WHEN YOU'RE ALL SET TO PLAY PEACEMAKER TO A COUPLE OF PASSING FLOWER CHILDREN!
ANOTHER SECOND, AND I'D HAVE LOOKED TO ONE AND ALL LIKE A HORN-HEADED BUTTINSKY!
'COURSE, WITH ALL THE BRIGHT LIGHTS I CAN SENSE AROUND HERE, I DON'T IMAGINE MY TARZAN-TYPE ENTRANCE WENT EXACTLY UNNOTICED!
THAT WAS DAREDEVIL-- OR ELSE SOMEBODY WHO MADE OFF WITH HIS LONG-JOHNS!
DID YOU CATCH THAT SCENE, SHIRL?
WHAT'S HE DOIN' HERE IN L.A.-- AND ON THE STRIP, NO LESS?
Los Angele
MAYOR YORT
FACT-FINDING
ARGENTIN
THAT, LITTLE LADY, IS PRECISELY WHAT DAREDEVIL IS ASKING HIMSELF RIGHT ABOUT NOW....!
MAYBE I SHOULD HAVE STAYED IN BED--
--OR AT LEAST IN MANHATTAN!
4

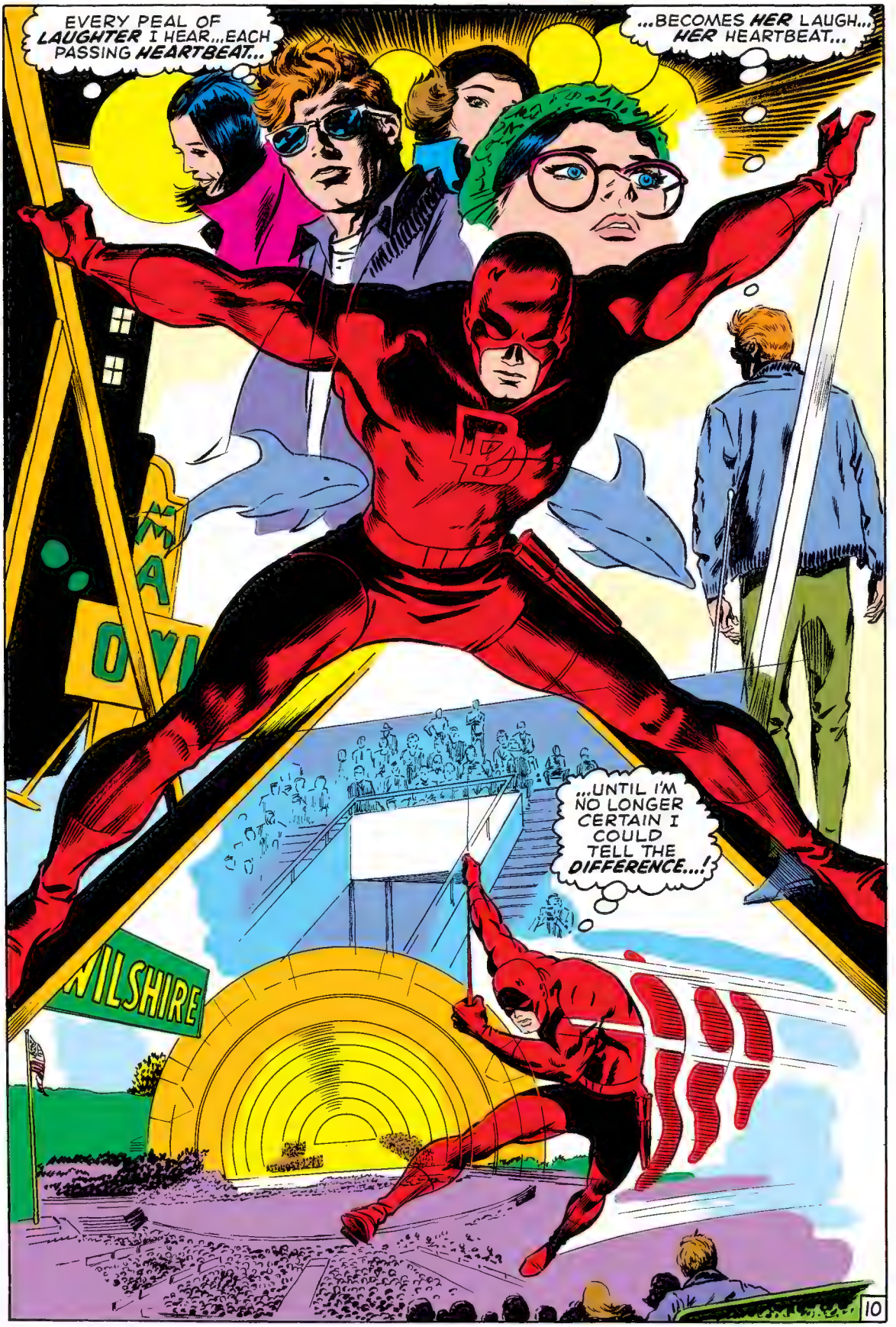

OH WELL...NO SENSE FRETTING OVER THAT AT THIS POINT!
I'M HERE IN TINSELTOWN--AND I MAY AS WELL MAKE THE BEST OF IT!
AND RIGHT NOW, I'D BETTER GET SOME SHUT-EYE--
--SO THAT, COME TOMORROW, I CAN GO BACK TO LOOKING FOR A NEEDLE IN THIS CRAZY-QUILT HAYSTACK!
WHO'D HAVE THOUGHT THAT THE HIGH-AND-MIGHTY DAREDEVIL WOULD BE REDUCED TO THIS?
SNEAKING INTO A CHEAP HOTEL--INTO WHICH HE REGISTERED UNDER AN ASSUMED NAME?
HMMM...LOOKS LIKE CRYING OVER SPILT MILK IS BECOMING MY BAG!
STILL, IF ONLY IT HADN'T BEEN FOR THE GLADIATOR--!
YEAH--THE GLADIATOR!
HE'S RUSTING AWAY IN SOME CELL SOMEWHERE--
BUT WOULDN'T HE HAVE A GOOD HORSE-LAUGH IF HE KNEW ALL THE HEARTACHE HE'S CAUSED ME!
5

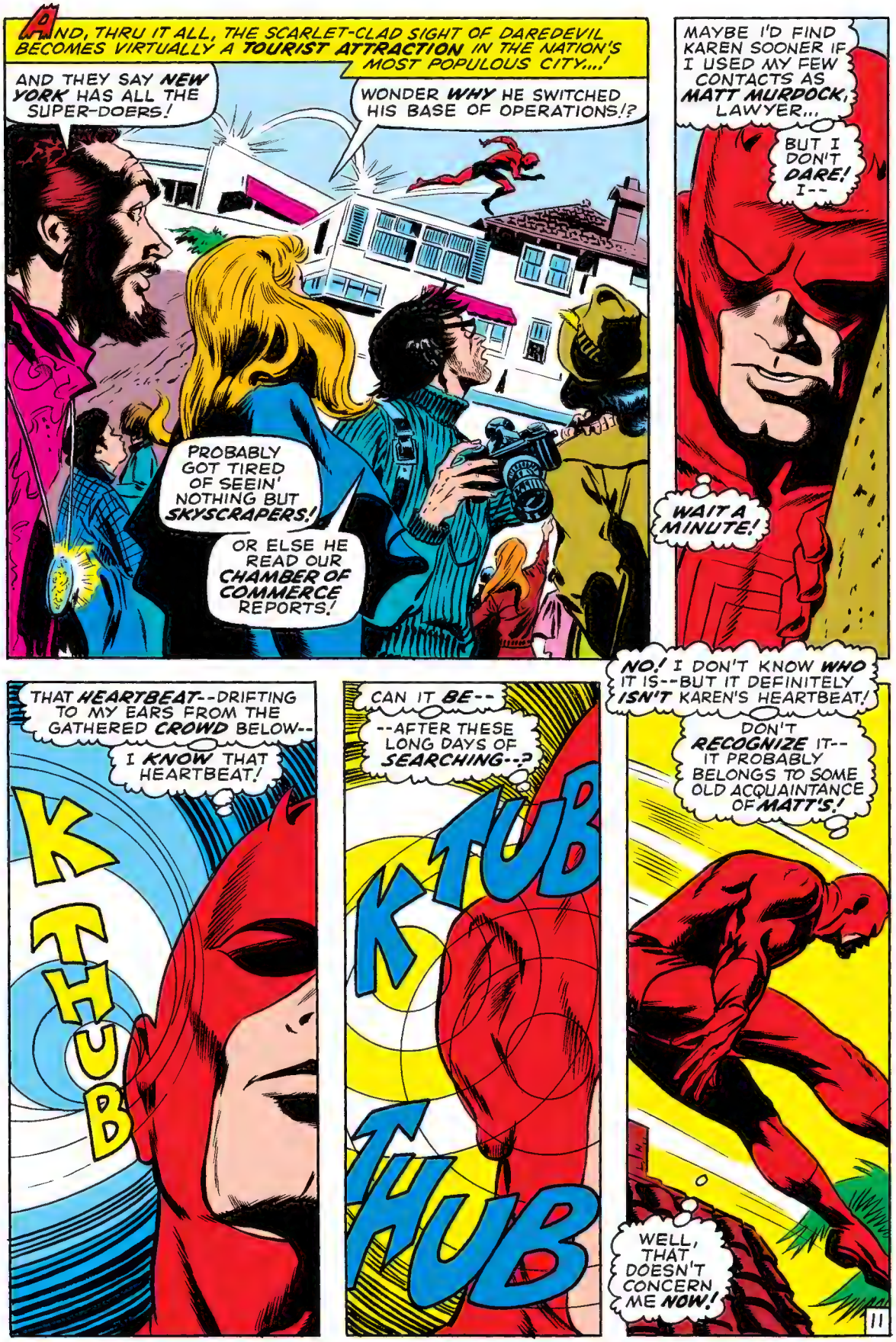

"IT WAS HIS ATTEMPTED JAILBREAK ON PRISON ISLAND--AN ATTEMPT THAT WAS DOOMED BEFORE IT BEGAN--THAT KEPT ME BUSY PLAYING CAT-AND-MOUSE FOR LONG, PRECIOUS MOMENTS--"
"FOR, WHILE I WAS FIGHTING FOR MY LIFE, THE ONLY GIRL I'VE EVER LOVED WAS LEAVING ON A PLANE--AND PROBABLY HOPING AGAINST HOPE FOR ME TO RETURN AND STOP HER--!"*
*ALL THIS WONDERMENT OCCURRED IN OUR PREVIOUS ISH! --STAN
"SURE, I FINALLY CAME ON LIKE MIGHTY MOUSE AND SAVED THE DAY--"
"--BUT NOT TILL THE BALL GAME WAS OVER--THE SHUT-OUT ALREADY POSTED!"
...SHE'S GONE--BUT MAYBE I CAN LEARN WHERE SHE WENT!
GOOD THING HER LANDLADY KNOWS ME AND SLIPPED ME HER KEY!
"CAUSE, A COUPLE OF HOURS LATER--"
SAY NOW--WHAT HAVE WE HERE?
A MEMO PAD --WITH SOME FAINT IMPRESSIONS ON THE TOP SHEET!
KAREN MUST HAVE WRITTEN SOMETHING ON THE PAGE ABOVE--AND TAKEN IT WITH HER!
BUT, I CAN STILL TELL WHAT SHE WROTE--BY FINGER-READING THE MARKINGS!
BROTHER MATT DIDN'T SEE 2000 SPY MOVIES FOR NOTHING!
6

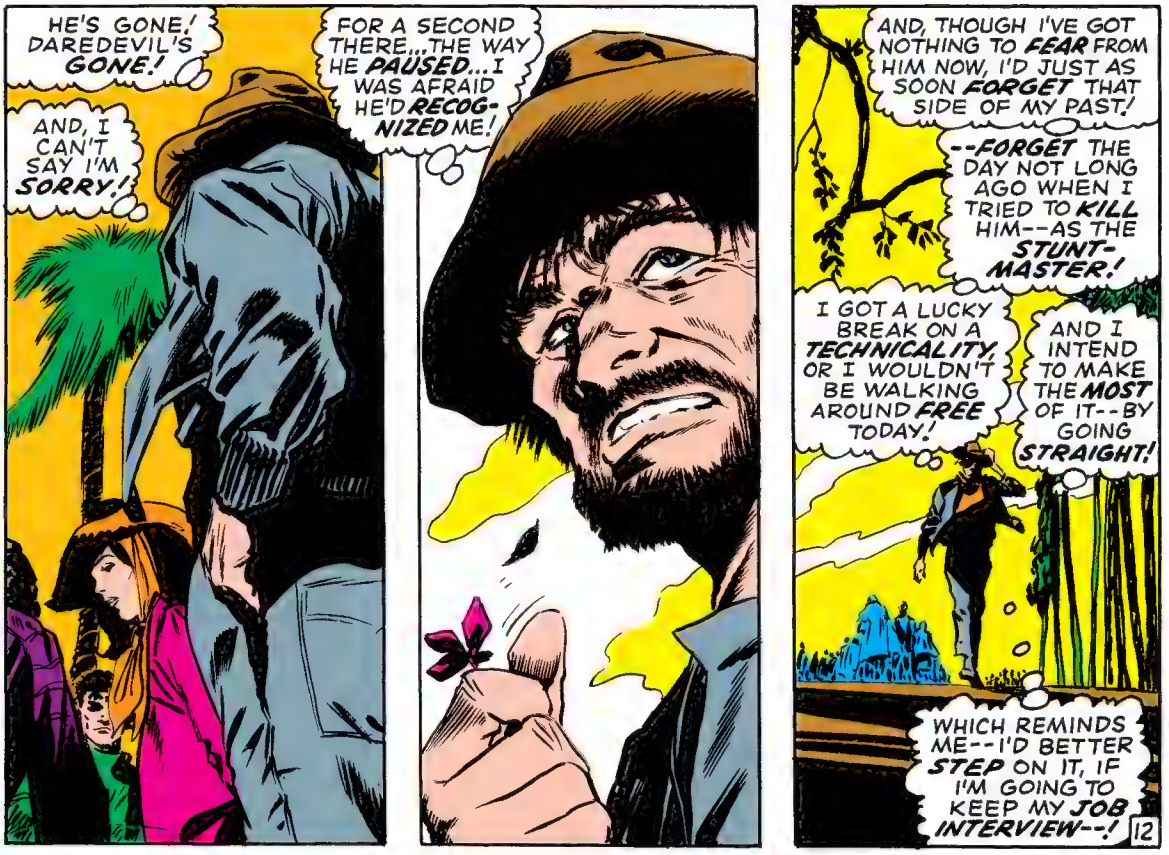

JUST AS I THOUGHT--AND HOPED!
IT'S AN ADDRESS--IN LOS ANGELES! THEN THAT'S WHERE THE LITTLE LADY HAS GONE!
AND, IF KAREN PAGE GOES--CAN DD BE FAR BEHIND?
"BUT, AS IF TO UNDERSCORE HOW TANGLED IS THE WEB I'VE BEEN WEAVING LATELY..."
FOGGY.. I'VE BEEN FEELING KIND-OF RUN-DOWN LATELY!
ANY CHANCE OF MY GETTING AWAY FOR A WHILE? MAYBE A COUPLE OF WEEKS IN THE MIAMI SUN--
KAREN'S LEAVING STILL GOT YOU DOWN, HUH?
I STILL CAN'T SLIP ANYTHING PAST YOU, EX-PARTNER!
THAT'S HOW I GOT TO BE D.A., MATT!
STILL, I KNOW HOW YOU FEEL!
IF ANY-THING LIKE THAT EVER HAPPENED BETWEEN ME AND DEBBIE--!
I COULDN'T TELL FOGGY THE TRUTH--THAT KAREN REALLY SEEMS TO BE IN L.A..!
NEVER CAN TELL WHEN I MIGHT HAVE TO USE MY DAREDEVIL IDENTITY OUT HERE--
UNITED
--AND IT'D BE DOWNRIGHT SUSPICIOUS IF BOTH DD AND MILD-MANNERED MATTHEW TURNED UP IN SMOG CITY AT THE SAME TIME!
NOW, IF ONLY THAT ADDRESS WASN'T A RED HERRING--!
HERE, MISTER... CAN I HELP YOU?
FRIEND... DON'T I WISH YOU COULD!
7

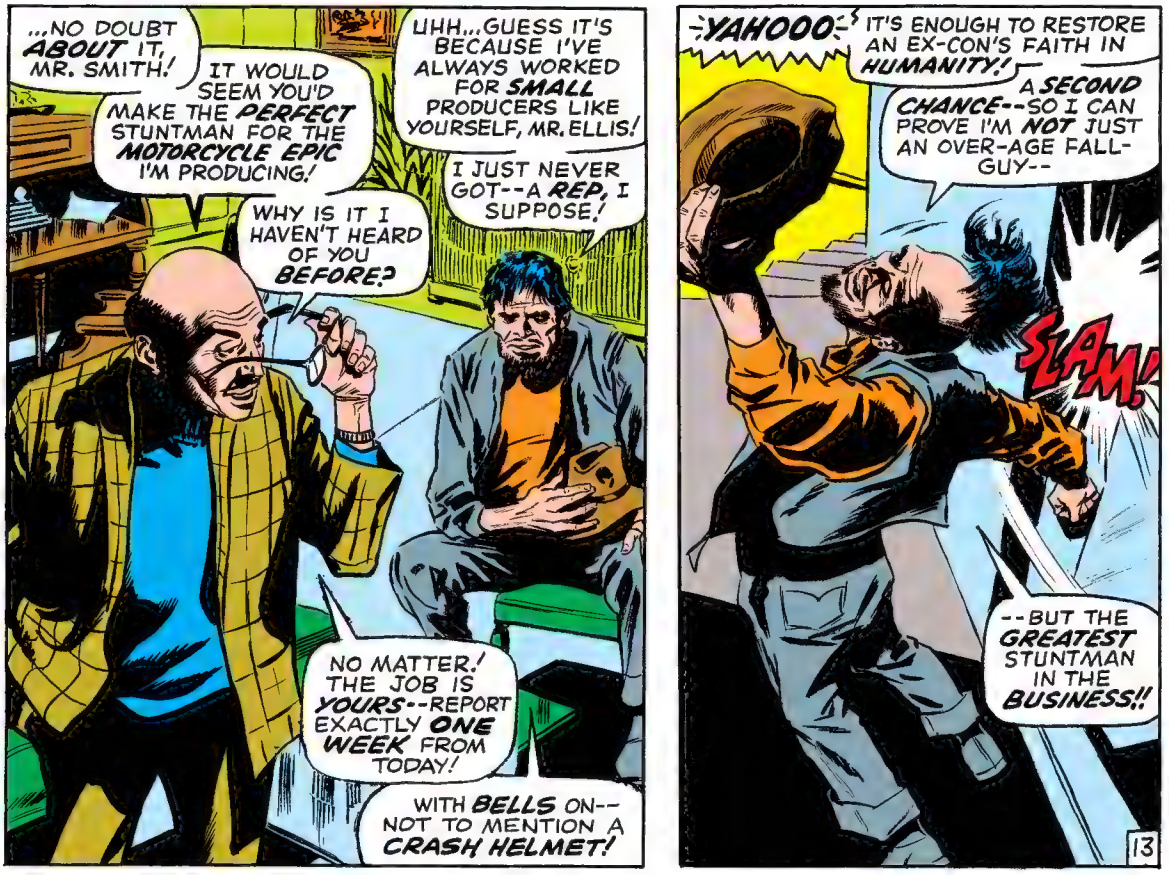

...WELL, CHALK UP LUCKY BREAK #1, ANYWAY!
THERE'S A LISTED PHONE NUMBER TO GO WITH THAT NAME AND ADDRESS I FOUND!
DON'T KNOW WHAT I'LL SAY TO HER--I'LL JUST HAVE TO PLAY IT BY EAR!
GATE 7
UNITED
SOMEONE ANSWERING --A GIRL--!
KAREN ?!
KAREN WHO? I'M SORRY, BUT THERE'S NO ONE HERE BY THAT--
OHH-- YOU'RE A FRIEND OF KAREN PAGE?
YES, THIS IS SALLY WESTON, BUT--
WHY, YES...SHE'S AN OLD COLLEGE ROOMMATE OF MINE!
ISN'T SHE STILL IN NEW YORK? SHE'S SECRETARY TO SOME LAWYER THERE, I THINK!
BUT I HAVEN'T HEARD FROM HER IN MONTHS!*
MY ADDRESS? SHE MUST HAVE TAKEN IT DOWN SO SHE COULD GIVE ME A RING WHILE SHE'S HERE!
BUT I HAVEN'T HEARD A PEEP OUT OF HER YET!
*NATURALLY, OUR INCOGNITO CRIME-BUSTER CAN'T SEE OR SENSE THE SCENE PICTURED ABOVE--BUT WE DIDN'T WANT TO KEEP ANY SECRETS FROM OUR RAPTUROUS READERS!--OL' S.

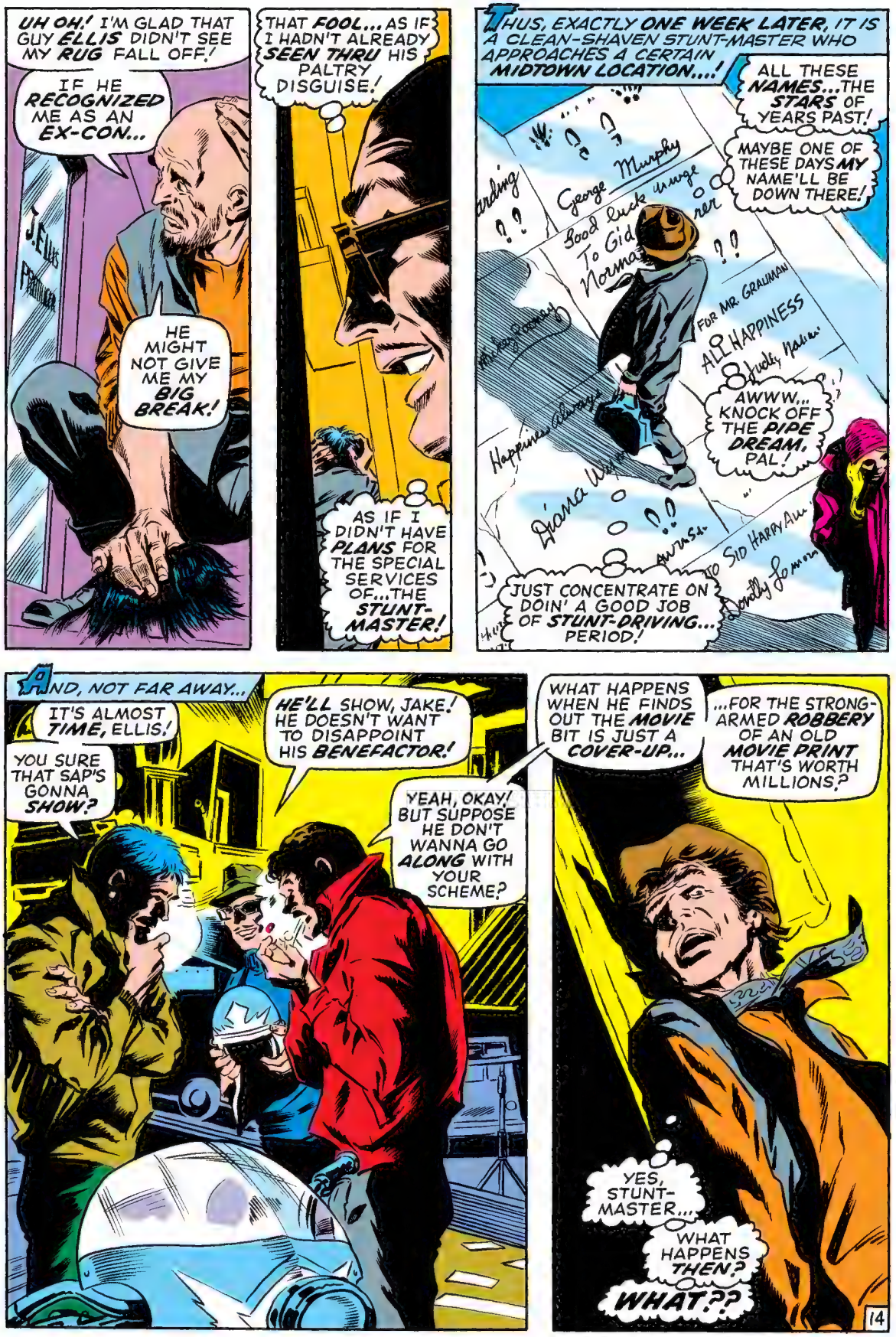

IF SHE DOES CALL ME, WHO SHALL I SAY--?
HELLO? HELLO...?
MAYBE I SHOULD'VE PAID A PERSONAL CALL ON SALLY WESTON--
--SO I COULD HAVE MADE LIKE A HUMAN LIE-DETECTOR, AND FOUND OUT IF SHE WAS TELLING THE TRUTH!
STILL, EITHER SHE WAS--OR SHE'S A GOOD LITTLE ACTRESS!
MARKET
WELL, KAREN'S OUT THERE-- SOMEWHERE-- SOMEPLACE!
AND I'LL FIND HER--NO MATTER HOW LONG IT TAKES!
DURING THE DAYS WHICH FOLLOW, HOWEVER, NEITHER THE SUN-SPLASHED FRIVOLITY OF AMUSEMENT PARKS NOR THE NIGHT-TIME GAIETY OF HOLLYWOOD AND VINE LIFTS THE HEAVY LOAD FROM MATT MURDOCK'S HEART....!
THOUGHT I'D HAVE A LITTLE FUN WHILE I WAS SEARCHING FOR KAREN...
BUT, IT'S NO USE!
WHEN SHE LEFT, IT SEEMS SHE DIDN'T GO EMPTY-HANDED....!
SHE TOOK WITH HER... MY SMILE!
HOLLYWOOD
9

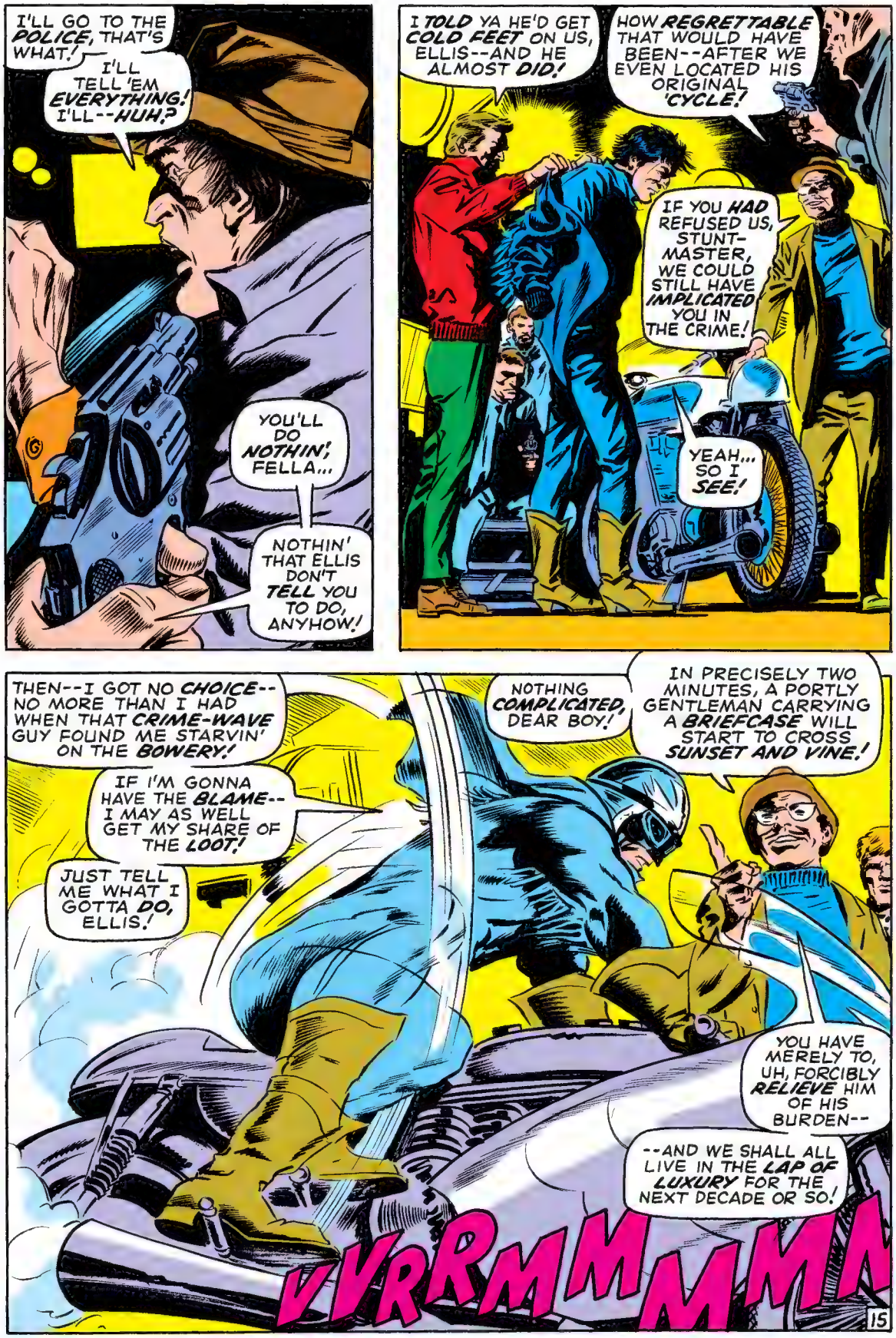

EVERY PEAL OF LAUGHTER I HEAR...EACH PASSING HEARTBEAT...
...BECOMES HER LAUGH... HER HEARTBEAT...
...UNTIL I'M NO LONGER CERTAIN I COULD TELL THE DIFFERENCE...!
WILSHIRE

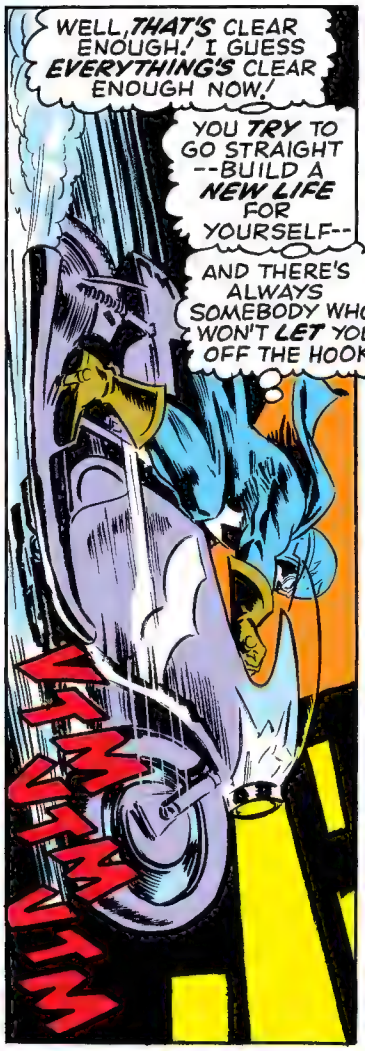

AND, THRU IT ALL, THE SCARLET-CLAD SIGHT OF DAREDEVIL BECOMES VIRTUALLY A TOURIST ATTRACTION IN THE NATION'S MOST POPULOUS CITY...!
AND THEY SAY NEW YORK HAS ALL THE SUPER-DOERS!
WONDER WHY HE SWITCHED HIS BASE OF OPERATIONS!?
PROBABLY GOT TIRED OF SEEIN' NOTHING BUT SKYSCRAPERS!
OR ELSE HE READ OUR CHAMBER OF COMMERCE REPORTS!
MAYBE I'D FIND KAREN SOONER IF I USED MY FEW CONTACTS AS MATT MURDOCK, LAWYER...
BUT I DON'T DARE! I--
WAIT A MINUTE!
NO! I DON'T KNOW WHO IT IS--BUT IT DEFINITELY ISN'T KAREN'S HEARTBEAT!
DON'T RECOGNIZE IT--IT PROBABLY BELONGS TO SOME OLD ACQUAINTANCE OF MATT'S!
WELL, THAT DOESN'T CONCERN ME NOW!
THAT HEARTBEAT--DRIFTING TO MY EARS FROM THE GATHERED CROWD BELOW--
I KNOW THAT HEARTBEAT!
KTHUB
CAN IT BE--
--AFTER THESE LONG DAYS OF SEARCHING--?
KTHUB
KTHUB


HE'S GONE! DAREDEVIL'S GONE!
AND, I CAN'T SAY I'M SORRY!
FOR A SECOND THERE...THE WAY HE PAUSED...I WAS AFRAID HE'D RECOGNIZED ME!
AND, THOUGH I'VE GOT NOTHING TO FEAR FROM HIM NOW, I'D JUST AS SOON FORGET THAT SIDE OF MY PAST!
--FORGET THE DAY NOT LONG AGO WHEN I TRIED TO KILL HIM--AS THE STUNT-MASTER!
I GOT A LUCKY BREAK ON A TECHNICALITY, OR I WOULDN'T BE WALKING AROUND FREE TODAY!
AND I INTEND TO MAKE THE MOST OF IT--BY GOING STRAIGHT!
WHICH REMINDS ME--I'D BETTER STEP ON IT, IF I'M GOING TO KEEP MY JOB INTERVIEW--!
12

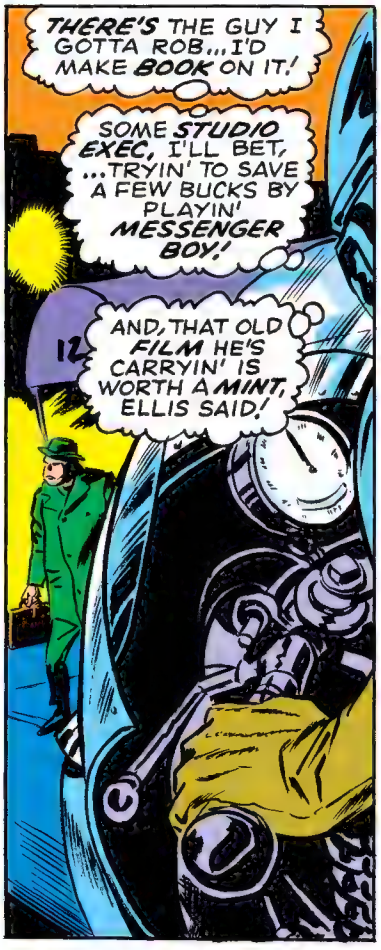

...NO DOUBT ABOUT IT, MR. SMITH!
IT WOULD SEEM YOU'D MAKE THE PERFECT STUNTMAN FOR THE MOTORCYCLE EPIC I'M PRODUCING!
WHY IS IT I HAVEN'T HEARD OF YOU BEFORE?
UHH...GUESS IT'S BECAUSE I'VE ALWAYS WORKED FOR SMALL PRODUCERS LIKE YOURSELF, MR. ELLIS!
I JUST NEVER GOT--A REP, I SUPPOSE!
NO MATTER! THE JOB IS YOURS--REPORT EXACTLY ONE WEEK FROM TODAY!
WITH BELLS ON--NOT TO MENTION A CRASH HELMET!
YAHOOO!
IT'S ENOUGH TO RESTORE AN EX-CON'S FAITH IN HUMANITY!
A SECOND CHANCE--SO I CAN PROVE I'M NOT JUST AN OVER-AGE FALL-GUY--
SLAM!
--BUT THE GREATEST STUNTMAN IN THE BUSINESS!!
13


UH OH! I'M GLAD THAT GUY ELLIS DIDN'T SEE MY RUG FALL OFF!
IF HE RECOGNIZED ME AS AN EX-CON...
HE MIGHT NOT GIVE ME MY BIG BREAK!
THAT FOOL... AS IF I HADN'T ALREADY SEEN THRU HIS PALTRY DISGUISE!
AS IF I DIDN'T HAVE PLANS FOR THE SPECIAL SERVICES OF...THE STUNT-MASTER!
THUS, EXACTLY ONE WEEK LATER, IT IS A CLEAN-SHAVEN STUNT-MASTER WHO APPROACHES A CERTAIN MIDTOWN LOCATION...!
ALL THESE NAMES...THE STARS OF YEARS PAST!
MAYBE ONE OF THESE DAYS MY NAME'LL BE DOWN THERE!
George Murphy
Good Luck
To Gid
Norma
FOR MR. GRAUMAN
ALL HAPPINESS
Happiness always
Diana
AWWW... KNOCK OFF THE PIPE DREAM, PAL!
JUST CONCENTRATE ON DOIN' A GOOD JOB OF STUNT-DRIVING... PERIOD!
to SID HARRY Allen
Dorothy Lamour
AND, NOT FAR AWAY...
IT'S ALMOST TIME, ELLIS!
YOU SURE THAT SAP'S GONNA SHOW?
HE'LL SHOW, JAKE! HE DOESN'T WANT TO DISAPPOINT HIS BENEFACTOR!
YEAH, OKAY! BUT SUPPOSE HE DON'T WANNA GO ALONG WITH YOUR SCHEME?
WHAT HAPPENS WHEN HE FINDS OUT THE MOVIE BIT IS JUST A COVER-UP...
...FOR THE STRONG-ARMED ROBBERY OF AN OLD MOVIE PRINT THAT'S WORTH MILLIONS?
YES, STUNT-MASTER...
WHAT HAPPENS THEN?
WHAT??
14


I'LL GO TO THE POLICE, THAT'S WHAT!
I'LL TELL 'EM EVERYTHING! I'LL--HUH?
YOU'LL DO NOTHIN', FELLA...
NOTHIN' THAT ELLIS DON'T TELL YOU TO DO, ANYHOW!
I TOLD YA HE'D GET COLD FEET ON US, ELLIS--AND HE ALMOST DID!
HOW REGRETTABLE THAT WOULD HAVE BEEN--AFTER WE EVEN LOCATED HIS ORIGINAL 'CYCLE!
IF YOU HAD REFUSED US, STUNT-MASTER, WE COULD STILL HAVE IMPLICATED YOU IN THE CRIME!
YEAH... SO I SEE!
THEN--I GOT NO CHOICE--NO MORE THAN I HAD WHEN THAT CRIME-WAVE GUY FOUND ME STARVIN' ON THE BOWERY!
IF I'M GONNA HAVE THE BLAME--I MAY AS WELL GET MY SHARE OF THE LOOT!
JUST TELL ME WHAT I GOTTA DO, ELLIS!
NOTHING COMPLICATED, DEAR BOY!
IN PRECISELY TWO MINUTES, A PORTLY GENTLEMAN CARRYING A BRIEFCASE WILL START TO CROSS SUNSET AND VINE!
YOU HAVE MERELY TO, UH, FORCIBLY RELIEVE HIM OF HIS BURDEN--
--AND WE SHALL ALL LIVE IN THE LAP OF LUXURY FOR THE NEXT DECADE OR SO!
VRRMMMMM
15


WELL, THAT'S CLEAR ENOUGH! I GUESS EVERYTHING'S CLEAR ENOUGH NOW!
YOU TRY TO GO STRAIGHT --BUILD A NEW LIFE FOR YOURSELF--
AND THERE'S ALWAYS SOMEBODY WHO WON'T LET YOU OFF THE HOOK!
VTM VTM VTM

I SHOULD'A KNOWN I WOULDN'T GET A BREAK...NOT A REAL ONE!
CARL
COFFEE SI
'CAUSE, WHEN YOU'RE MARKED LOUSY...WHEN YOU'RE AN EX-CON... WHO CARES?
WELL, I BETTER GET MY MIND ON BUSINESS!


THERE'S THE GUY I GOTTA ROB...I'D MAKE BOOK ON IT!
SOME STUDIO EXEC, I'LL BET, ...TRYIN' TO SAVE A FEW BUCKS BY PLAYIN' MESSENGER BOY!
AND, THAT OLD FILM HE'S CARRYIN' IS WORTH A MINT, ELLIS SAID!

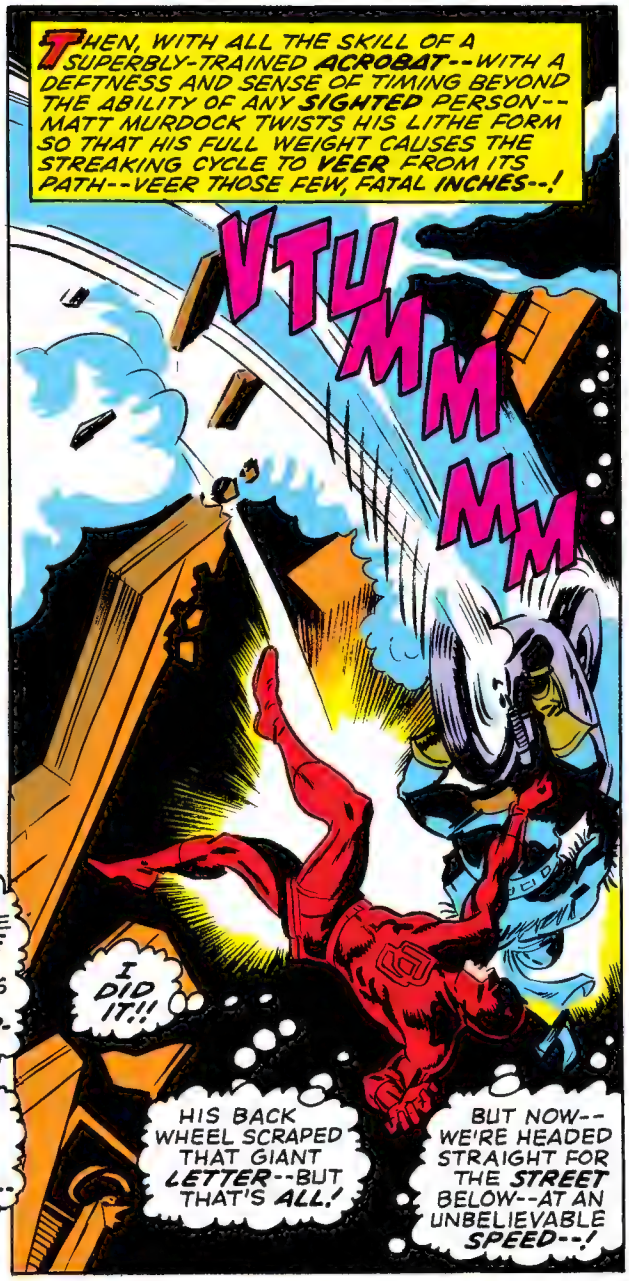
WHAT A SHLUMP! IT ISN'T EVEN ATTACHED TO HIS WRIST BY A CHAIN!
BRONSON
MOTION PICTURE
DISTRIBUTING CO.

WELL, SO MUCH THE BETTER...FOR HIS WRIST!
AT THIS SPEED, I BETTER NOT MISS...'CAUSE I WON'T GET A SECOND CHANCE!
HE'S TURNIN' ...HE SEES ME! NOTHIN' TO DO NOW BUT--

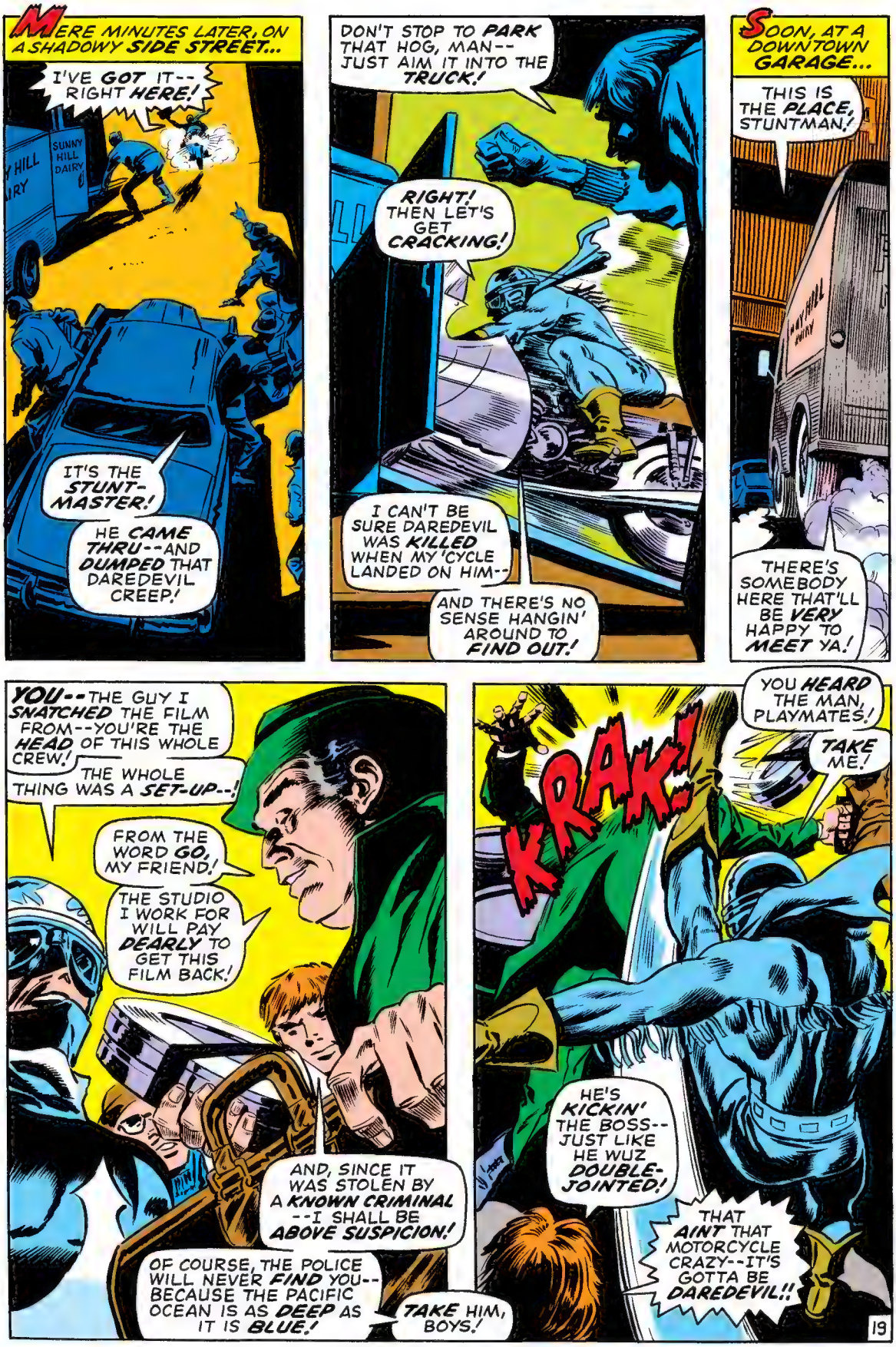
SNAP!
--GRAB IT!!
16

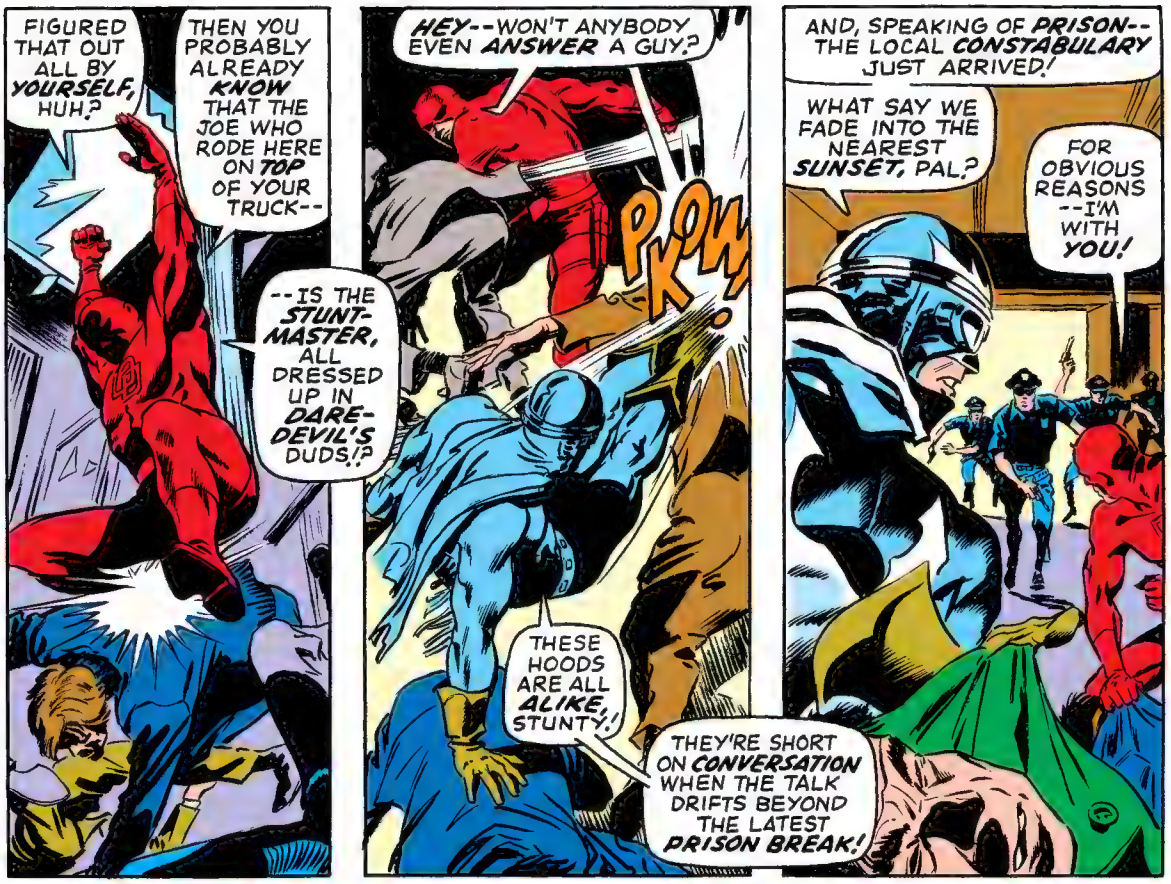
JUST THIS ONE JOB--THAT'S ALL!
THEN I'M TAKING MY CUT OF THE LOOT--AND GOING STRAIGHT IF IT KILLS ME!
STOP--THIEF!!
WELL, WADDAYA KNOW! FROM THE SOUND OF THAT SOUPED-UP 'CYCLE--I'D SAY THE SINISTER STUNT-MASTER WAS BACK IN BUSINESS!
HE'S JUST SHIFTED HIS BASE OF OPERATIONS FROM NEW YORK TO L.A.!
GOOD THING I'VE BEEN PATROLLING THIS AREA OFF AND ON!
GOOD FOR ME, THAT IS--NOT FOR HIM!
HUH? WHO--? DAREDEVIL!
OH NO--NO! NOT HERE--NOT NOW!!
WAAK!
SORRY, DD--I GOT NOTHING MUCH PERSONAL AGAINST YOU, JUST 'CAUSE YOU SENT ME UP--
BUT I'VE GOTTA MAKE GOOD ON THIS CAPER--I'VE JUST GOTTA!
AND I'VE GOT NOTHING MUCH PERSONAL AGAINST YOU, STUNTY--
BUT IT LOOKS LIKE I'M GONNA HAVE TO SEND YOU BACK TO THE BIG HOUSE--
--IF I CAN!!
17

MAYBE SLICING THRU THAT PALM TREE LIKE BUTTER DIDN'T THROW YOU, HORNHEAD--
BUT I CAN STILL SCRAPE YOU OFF --BY CUTTING IN CLOSE TO THAT SIGNBOARD!
WUH-ROOOOM!
UH OH! HE'S GONE AIRBORNE --USING HIS 'CYCLE'S SPECIAL BOOSTER-JETS!
AND HIS NEXT LITTLE MANEUVER WILL PEEL ME LIKE A USED GRAPE--
--UNLESS--

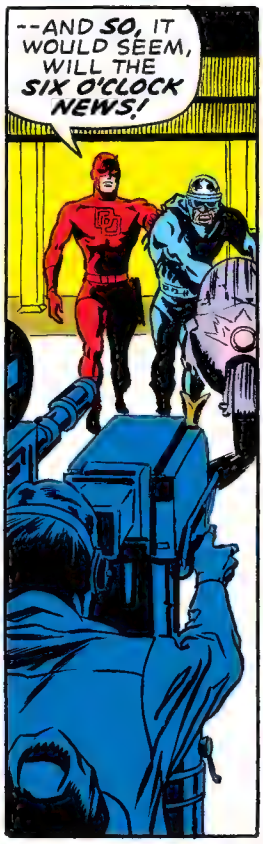

THEN, WITH ALL THE SKILL OF A SUPERBLY-TRAINED ACROBAT--WITH A DEFTNESS AND SENSE OF TIMING BEYOND THE ABILITY OF ANY SIGHTED PERSON--MATT MURDOCK TWISTS HIS LITHE FORM SO THAT HIS FULL WEIGHT CAUSES THE STREAKING CYCLE TO VEER FROM ITS PATH--VEER THOSE FEW, FATAL INCHES--!
VTUMMMM
I DID IT!!
HIS BACK WHEEL SCRAPED THAT GIANT LETTER--BUT THAT'S ALL!
BUT NOW--WE'RE HEADED STRAIGHT FOR THE STREET BELOW--AT AN UNBELIEVABLE SPEED--!

THEY'RE GONE--OUT OF SIGHT!
THE FILM! THEY MUSTN'T DAMAGE THE FILM!
TELL THAT TO THEM, MAC--
IF THEY'RE STILL ALIVE!


MERE MINUTES LATER, ON A SHADOWY SIDE STREET...
I'VE GOT IT-- RIGHT HERE!
SUNNY HILL DAIRY
IT'S THE STUNT-MASTER!
HE CAME THRU--AND DUMPED THAT DAREDEVIL CREEP!
DON'T STOP TO PARK THAT HOG, MAN-- JUST AIM IT INTO THE TRUCK!
RIGHT! THEN LET'S GET CRACKING!
I CAN'T BE SURE DAREDEVIL WAS KILLED WHEN MY 'CYCLE LANDED ON HIM--
AND THERE'S NO SENSE HANGIN' AROUND TO FIND OUT!
SOON, AT A DOWNTOWN GARAGE...
THIS IS THE PLACE, STUNTMAN!
SUNNY HILL DAIRY
THERE'S SOMEBODY HERE THAT'LL BE VERY HAPPY TO MEET YA!
YOU--THE GUY I SNATCHED THE FILM FROM--YOU'RE THE HEAD OF THIS WHOLE CREW!
THE WHOLE THING WAS A SET-UP--!
FROM THE WORD GO, MY FRIEND!
THE STUDIO I WORK FOR WILL PAY DEARLY TO GET THIS FILM BACK!
AND, SINCE IT WAS STOLEN BY A KNOWN CRIMINAL --I SHALL BE ABOVE SUSPICION!
OF COURSE, THE POLICE WILL NEVER FIND YOU-- BECAUSE THE PACIFIC OCEAN IS AS DEEP AS IT IS BLUE!
TAKE HIM, BOYS!
KRAK!
YOU HEARD THE MAN, PLAYMATES!
TAKE ME!
HE'S KICKIN' THE BOSS-- JUST LIKE HE WUZ DOUBLE-JOINTED!
THAT AINT THAT MOTORCYCLE CRAZY--IT'S GOTTA BE DAREDEVIL!!


FIGURED THAT OUT ALL BY YOURSELF, HUH?
THEN YOU PROBABLY ALREADY KNOW THAT THE JOE WHO RODE HERE ON TOP OF YOUR TRUCK--
--IS THE STUNT-MASTER, ALL DRESSED UP IN DARE-DEVIL'S DUDS!?
HEY--WON'T ANYBODY EVEN ANSWER A GUY?
POW
THESE HOODS ARE ALL ALIKE, STUNTY!
THEY'RE SHORT ON CONVERSATION WHEN THE TALK DRIFTS BEYOND THE LATEST PRISON BREAK!
AND, SPEAKING OF PRISON--THE LOCAL CONSTABULARY JUST ARRIVED!
WHAT SAY WE FADE INTO THE NEAREST SUNSET, PAL?
FOR OBVIOUS REASONS --I'M WITH YOU!

THEN, IN A MORE SECLUDED SPOT...
I--I'M GLAD YOU TALKED SOME SENSE INTO ME BACK THERE WHEN WE CRASHED!
...I FEEL BETTER NOW, IN MY OWN THREADS!
SO AM I--BUT KEEP THAT HEAD TURNED, OKAY?
AS IT IS, YOU'VE COMMITTED NO CRIME--JUST HELPED STOP ONE!
YOUR PAROLE BOARD IS REALLY GONNA EAT THIS UP--

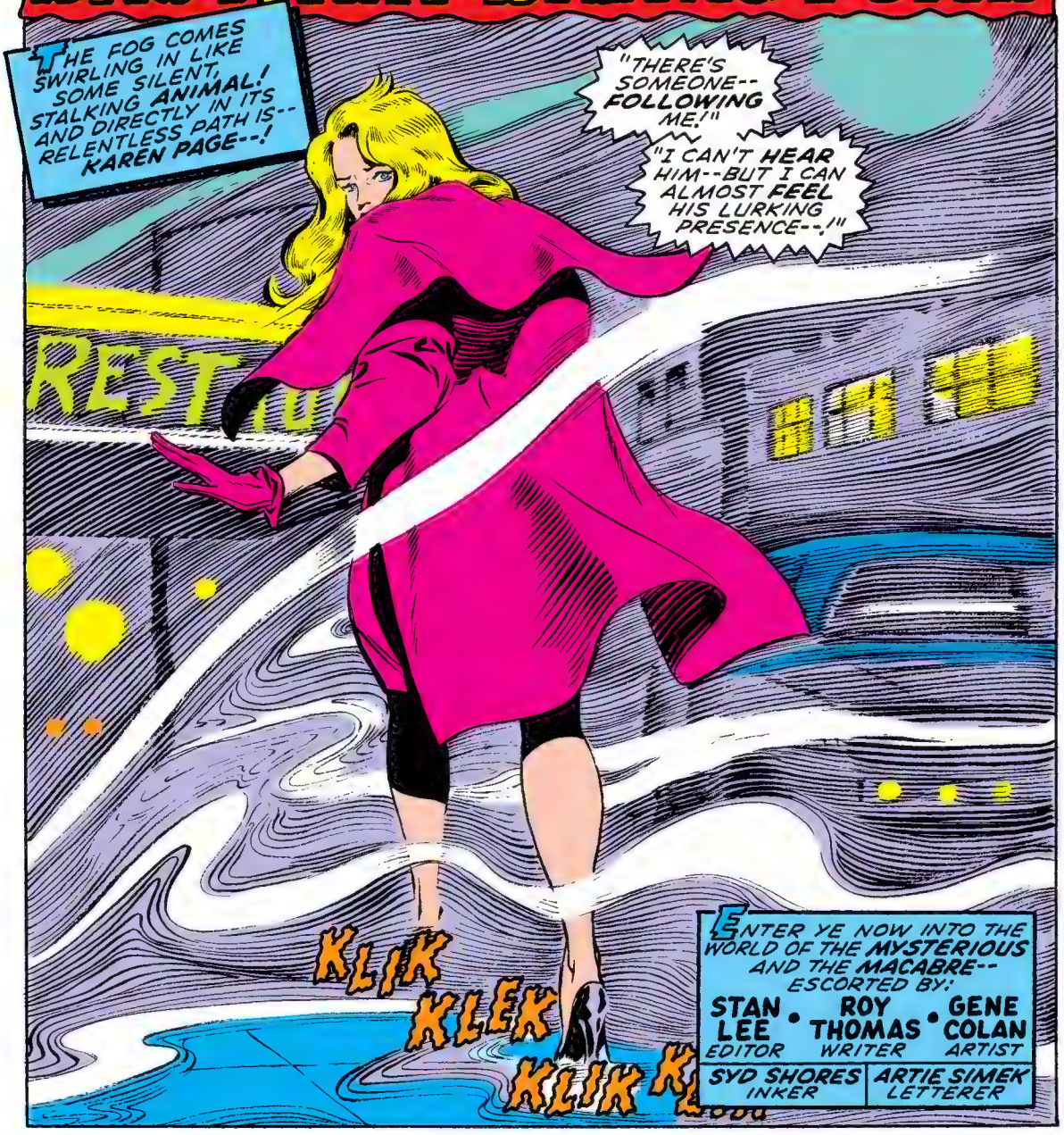

--AND SO, IT WOULD SEEM, WILL THE SIX O'CLOCK NEWS!

A FEW NIGHTS LATER, IN A CERTAIN LOW-BUDGET HOTEL ROOM...
MY OLD SPARRING PARTNER EARNED HIS BREAK --BUT THAT STILL LEAVES ME NOWHERE!
Variety
"STUNT-MASTER" A HERO.. SIGNED FOR FALL SERIES
"A NATURAL!" SAYS VEEP
NEW SHOW TO DEAL WITH MASKED MOTORCYCLIST WHO HELPS LIST PEOPLE IN TROUBLE
TOMORROW, I DO WHAT I SHOULD'VE DONE RIGHT AWAY!
I'M LOOKING UP SALLY WESTON--TO SEE IF SHE KNOWS WHERE KAREN IS!
I JUST HOPE I HAVEN'T WAITED UNTIL IT'S--TOO LATE--!
NEXT:
BETTER LATE... OR NEVER?

DARE-DEVIL
15¢
65
JUNE
DAREDEVIL
THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR!
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
KAREN'S DEAD... DEAD.. AND YOU'RE THE ONE WHO KILLED HER!!
MARVEL COMICS GROUP
JOHNST
THE MURDEROUS MENACE OF THE MAN CALLED BRIMSTONE!

DAREDEVIL, THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR!™

THE KILLING OF BROTHER BRIMSTONE


THE FOG COMES SWIRLING IN LIKE SOME SILENT, STALKING ANIMAL! AND DIRECTLY IN ITS RELENTLESS PATH IS-- KAREN PAGE--!
"THERE'S SOMEONE-- FOLLOWING ME!"
"I CAN'T HEAR HIM--BUT I CAN ALMOST FEEL HIS LURKING PRESENCE--!"
REST
KLIK
KLEK
KLIK

ENTER YE NOW INTO THE WORLD OF THE MYSTERIOUS AND THE MACABRE-- ESCORTED BY:

STAN LEE	ROY THOMAS	GENE COLAN
EDITOR	WRITER	ARTIST

SYD SHORES	ARTIE SIMEK
INKER	LETTERER

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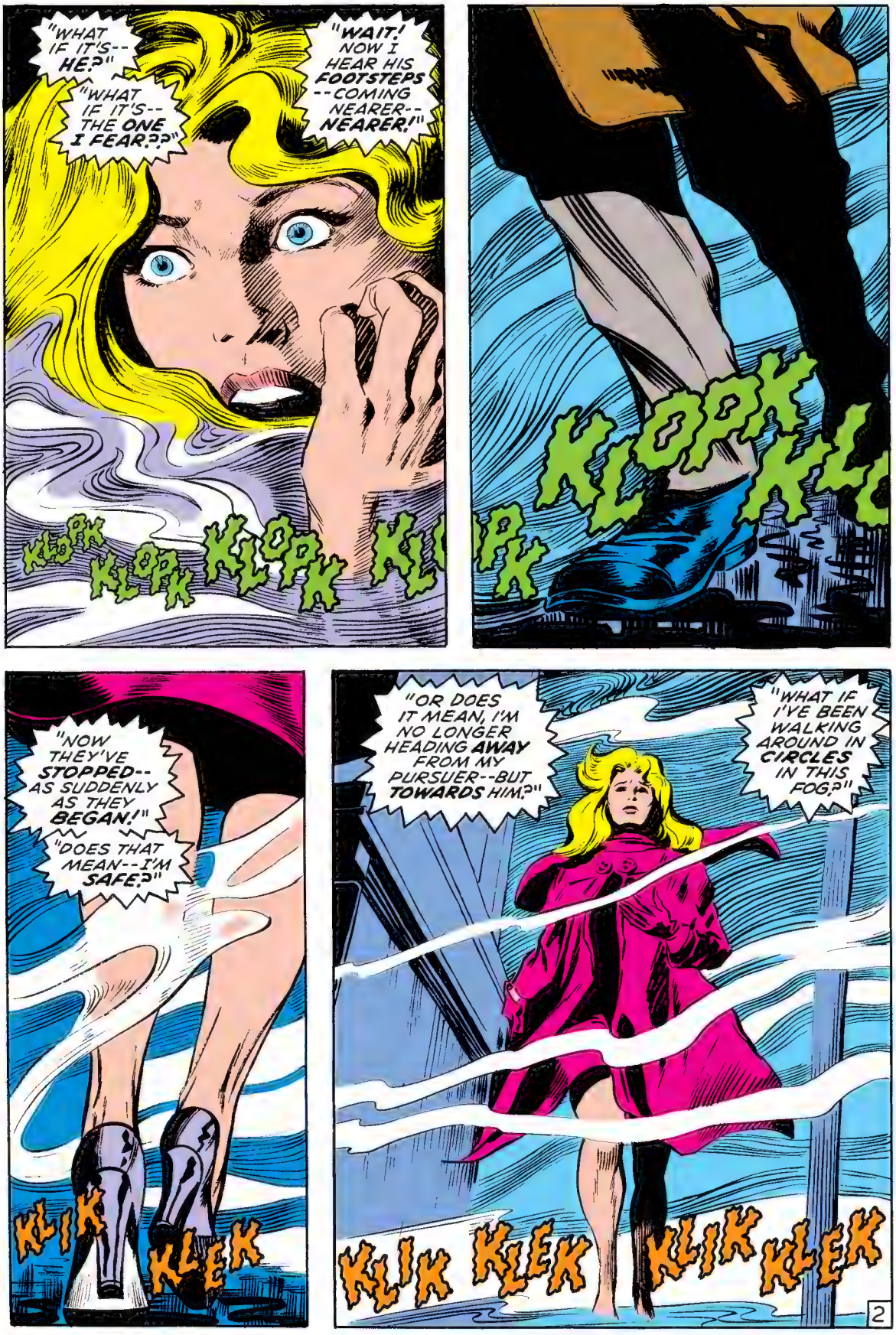
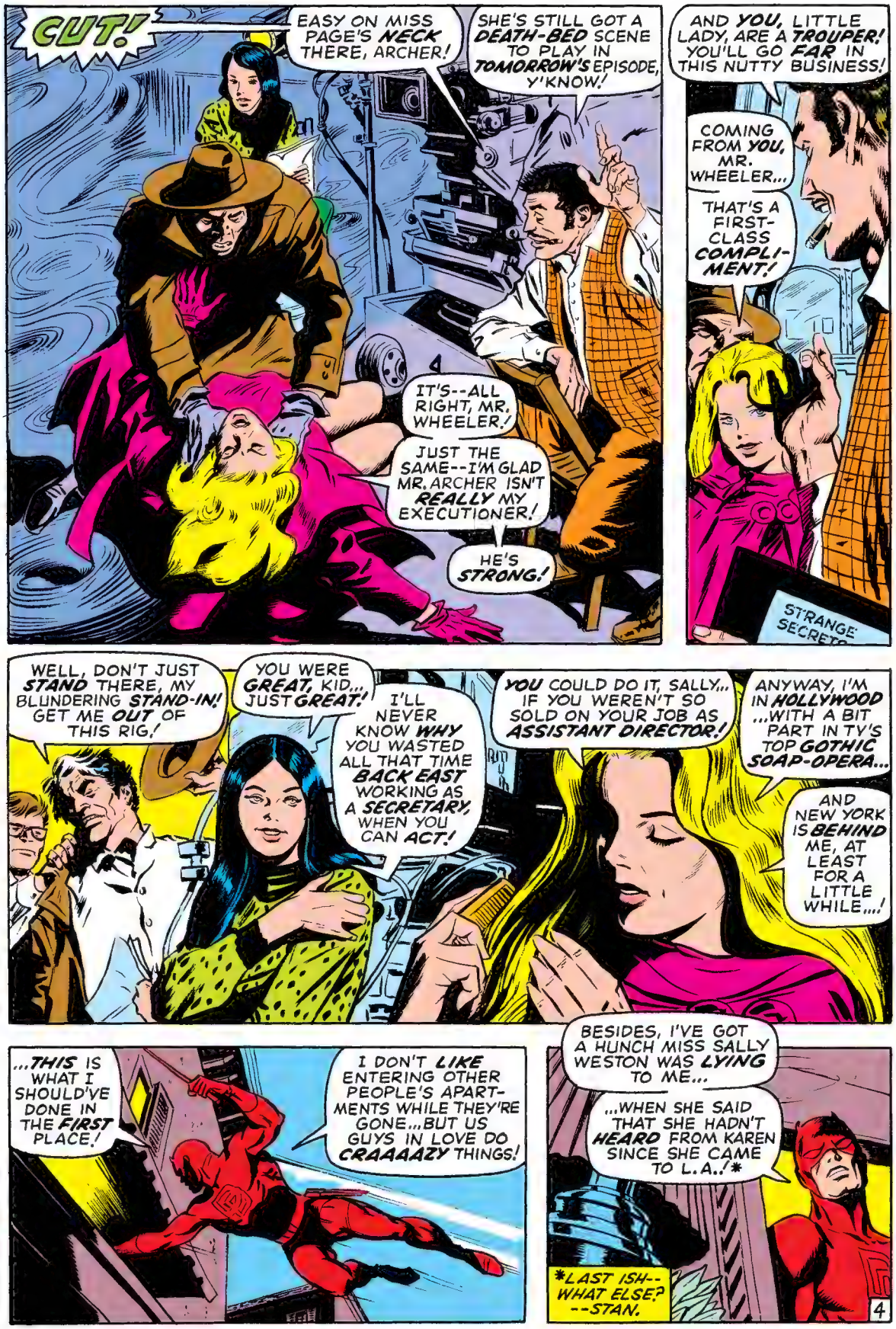
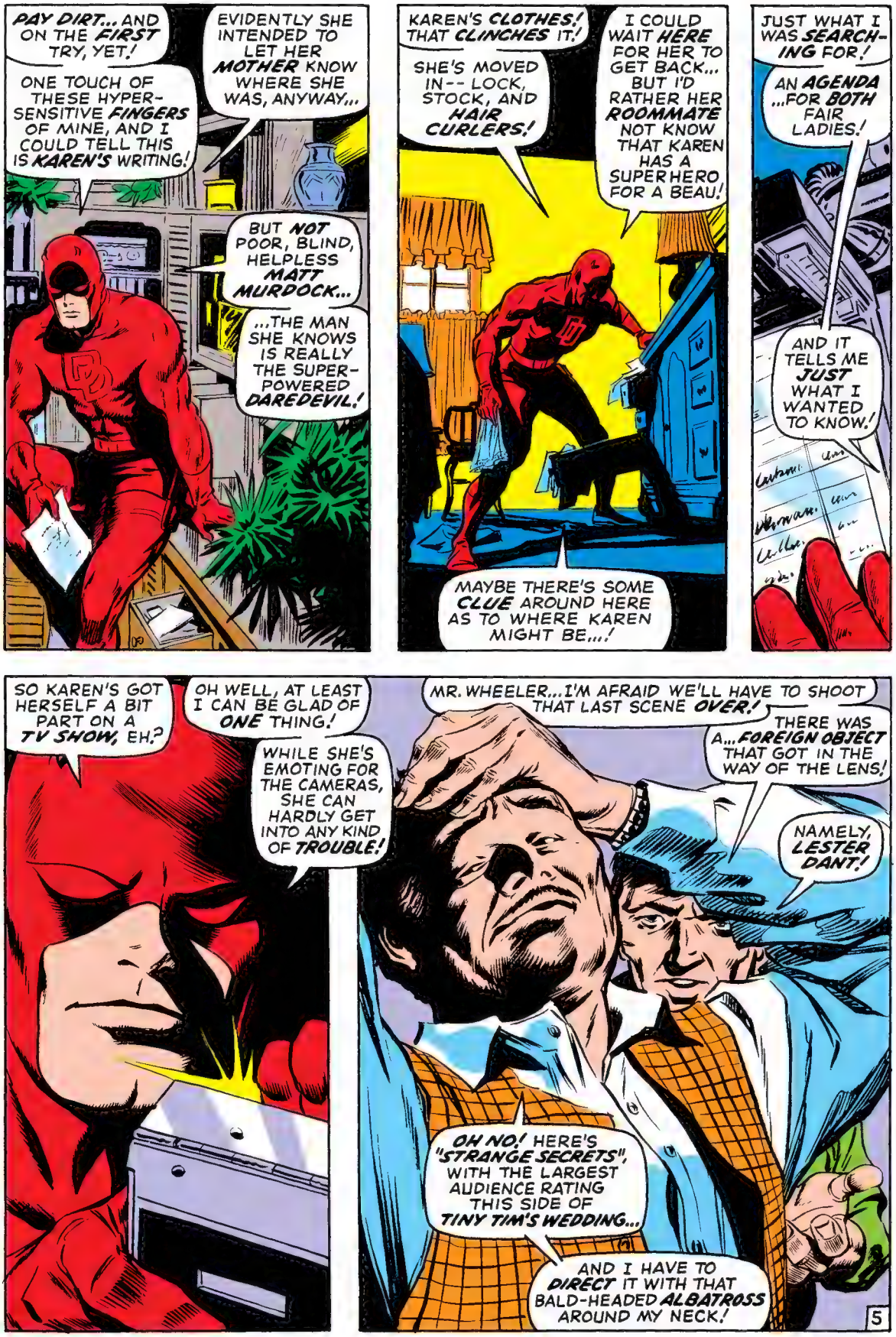
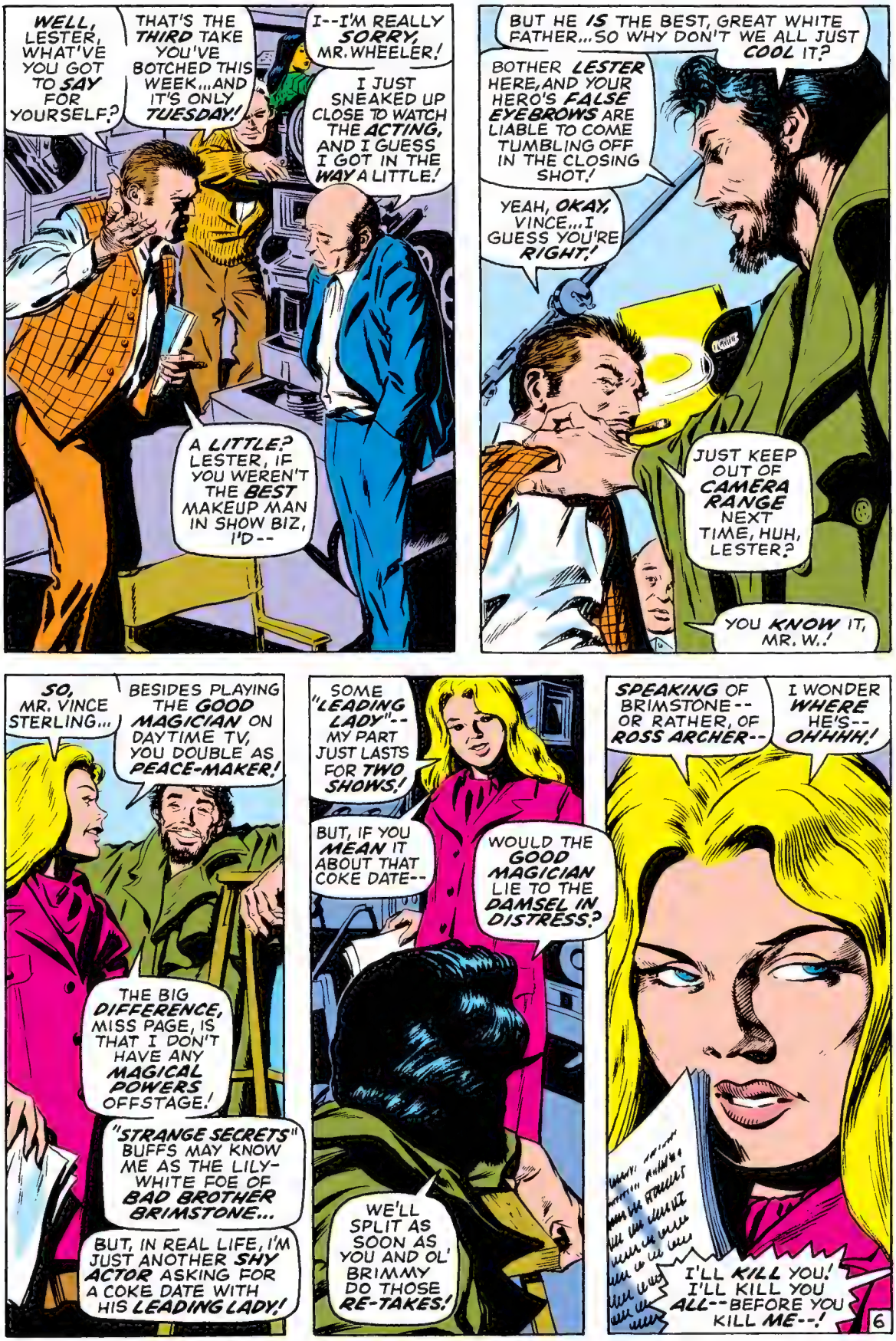

"WHAT IF IT'S-- HE?"
"WHAT IF IT'S-- THE ONE I FEAR??"
"WAIT! NOW I HEAR HIS FOOTSTEPS --COMING NEARER-- NEARER!"
KLOPK KLOPK KLOPK KLOPK
KLOPK KLO
"NOW THEY'VE STOPPED-- AS SUDDENLY AS THEY BEGAN!"
"DOES THAT MEAN--I'M SAFE?"
KLIK KLEK
"OR DOES IT MEAN, I'M NO LONGER HEADING AWAY FROM MY PURSUER--BUT TOWARDS HIM?"
"WHAT IF I'VE BEEN WALKING AROUND IN CIRCLES IN THIS FOG?"
KLIK KLEK KLIK KLEK
2

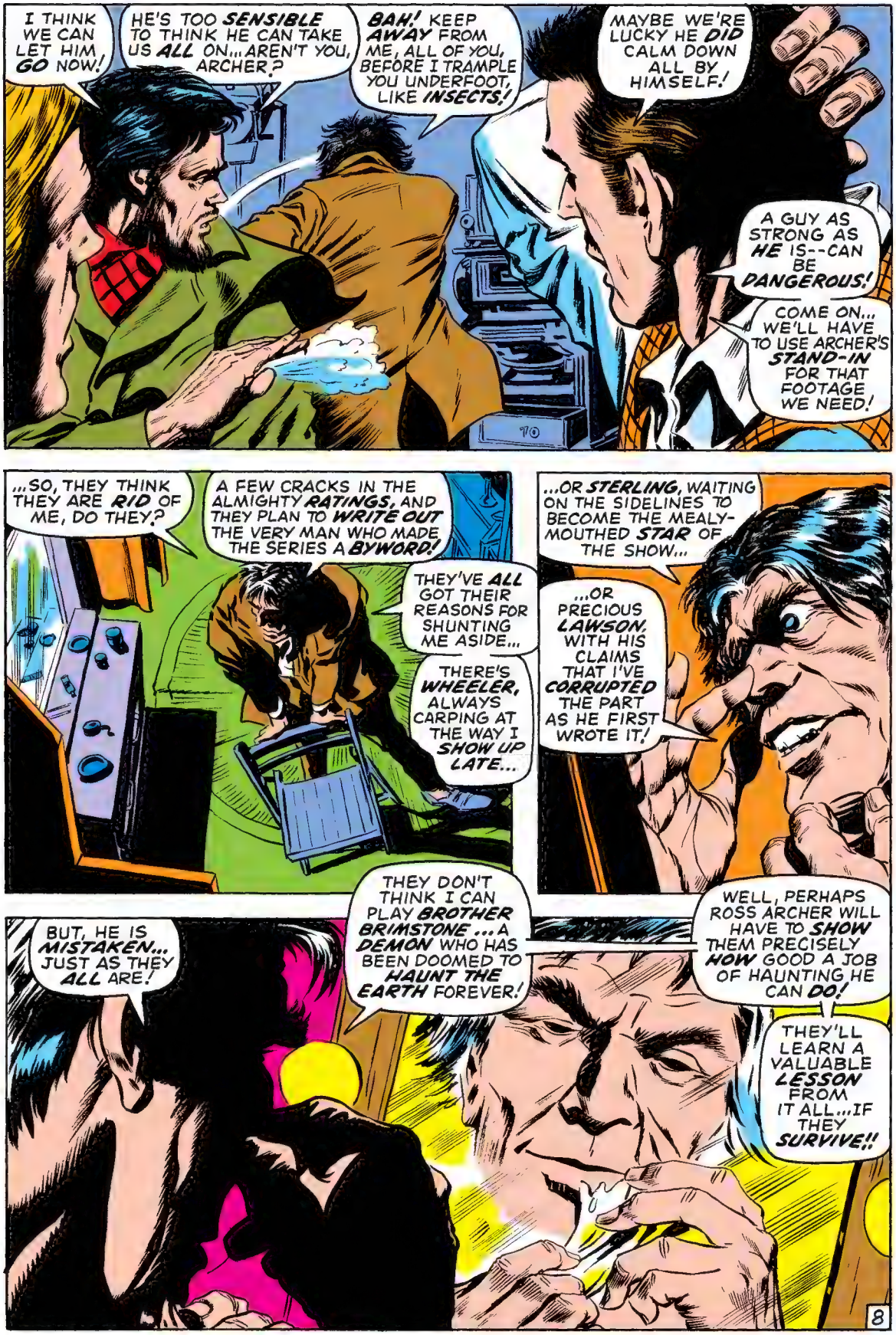
"THERE--COMING TOWARDS ME--FROM OUT OF THE MIST--"
KLOK KLOK
YOU!
PLEASE SPARE ME THE MEANINGLESS CRIES OF EXCLAMATION, MY DEAR!
YOU KNEW FULL WELL THAT TODAY YOU WOULD MEET YOUR FATE...YOUR DESTINY...YOUR EXECUTIONER!
THERE IS NO HIDING... NO ESCAPE FROM... BROTHER BRIMSTONE!
NO! NOOOOO
3

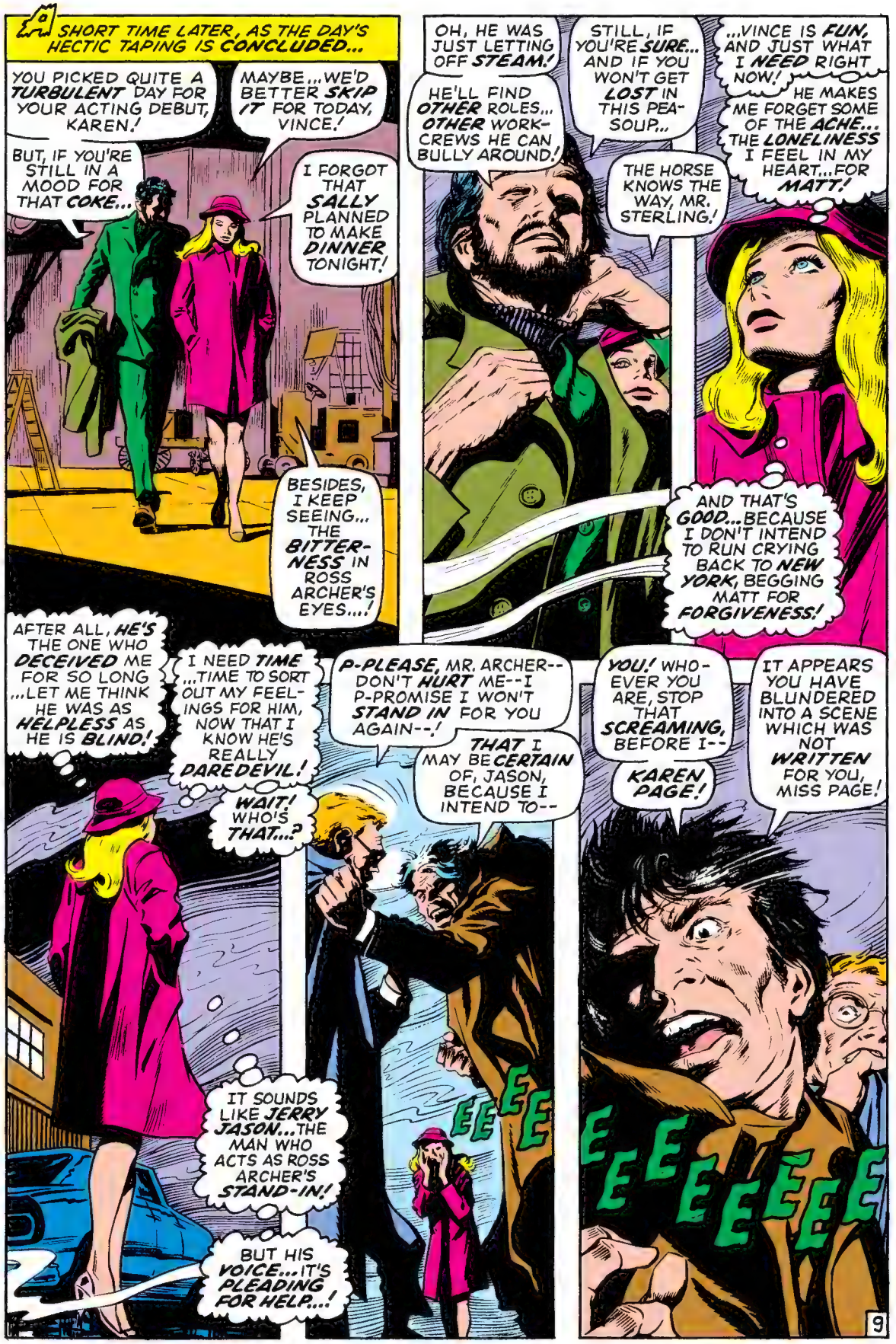

CUT!
EASY ON MISS PAGE'S NECK THERE, ARCHER!
SHE'S STILL GOT A DEATH-BED SCENE TO PLAY IN TOMORROW'S EPISODE, Y'KNOW!
IT'S--ALL RIGHT, MR. WHEELER!
JUST THE SAME--I'M GLAD MR. ARCHER ISN'T REALLY MY EXECUTIONER!
HE'S STRONG!
AND YOU, LITTLE LADY, ARE A TROUPER! YOU'LL GO FAR IN THIS NUTTY BUSINESS!
COMING FROM YOU, MR. WHEELER...
THAT'S A FIRST-CLASS COMPLI-MENT!
STRANGE SECRETS
WELL, DON'T JUST STAND THERE, MY BLUNDERING STAND-IN! GET ME OUT OF THIS RIG!
YOU WERE GREAT, KID... JUST GREAT!
I'LL NEVER KNOW WHY YOU WASTED ALL THAT TIME BACK EAST WORKING AS A SECRETARY, WHEN YOU CAN ACT!
YOU COULD DO IT, SALLY... IF YOU WEREN'T SO SOLD ON YOUR JOB AS ASSISTANT DIRECTOR!
ANYWAY, I'M IN HOLLYWOOD ...WITH A BIT PART IN TY'S TOP GOTHIC SOAP-OPERA...
AND NEW YORK IS BEHIND ME, AT LEAST FOR A LITTLE WHILE...!
...THIS IS WHAT I SHOULD'VE DONE IN THE FIRST PLACE!
I DON'T LIKE ENTERING OTHER PEOPLE'S APART-MENTS WHILE THEY'RE GONE...BUT US GUYS IN LOVE DO CRAAAAZY THINGS!
BESIDES, I'VE GOT A HUNCH MISS SALLY WESTON WAS LYING TO ME...
...WHEN SHE SAID THAT SHE HADN'T HEARD FROM KAREN SINCE SHE CAME TO L.A.!*
*LAST ISH--WHAT ELSE? --STAN.
4


PAY DIRT... AND ON THE FIRST TRY, YET!
ONE TOUCH OF THESE HYPER-SENSITIVE FINGERS OF MINE, AND I COULD TELL THIS IS KAREN'S WRITING!
EVIDENTLY SHE INTENDED TO LET HER MOTHER KNOW WHERE SHE WAS, ANYWAY...
BUT NOT POOR, BLIND, HELPLESS MATT MURDOCK...
...THE MAN SHE KNOWS IS REALLY THE SUPER-POWERED DAREDEVIL!
KAREN'S CLOTHES! THAT CLINCHES IT!
SHE'S MOVED IN-- LOCK, STOCK, AND HAIR CURLERS!
I COULD WAIT HERE FOR HER TO GET BACK... BUT I'D RATHER HER ROOMMATE NOT KNOW THAT KAREN HAS A SUPER HERO FOR A BEAU!
MAYBE THERE'S SOME CLUE AROUND HERE AS TO WHERE KAREN MIGHT BE...!
JUST WHAT I WAS SEARCH-ING FOR!
AN AGENDA ...FOR BOTH FAIR LADIES!
AND IT TELLS ME JUST WHAT I WANTED TO KNOW!
SO KAREN'S GOT HERSELF A BIT PART ON A TV SHOW, EH?
OH WELL, AT LEAST I CAN BE GLAD OF ONE THING!
WHILE SHE'S EMOTING FOR THE CAMERAS, SHE CAN HARDLY GET INTO ANY KIND OF TROUBLE!
MR. WHEELER... I'M AFRAID WE'LL HAVE TO SHOOT THAT LAST SCENE OVER!
THERE WAS A... FOREIGN OBJECT THAT GOT IN THE WAY OF THE LENS!
NAMELY, LESTER DANT!
OH NO! HERE'S "STRANGE SECRETS", WITH THE LARGEST AUDIENCE RATING THIS SIDE OF TINY TIM'S WEDDING...
AND I HAVE TO DIRECT IT WITH THAT BALD-HEADED ALBATROSS AROUND MY NECK!


WELL, LESTER, WHAT'VE YOU GOT TO SAY FOR YOURSELF?
THAT'S THE THIRD TAKE YOU'VE BOTCHED THIS WEEK...AND IT'S ONLY TUESDAY!
I--I'M REALLY SORRY, MR. WHEELER!
I JUST SNEAKED UP CLOSE TO WATCH THE ACTING, AND I GUESS I GOT IN THE WAY A LITTLE!
A LITTLE? LESTER, IF YOU WEREN'T THE BEST MAKEUP MAN IN SHOW BIZ, I'D--
BUT HE IS THE BEST, GREAT WHITE FATHER...SO WHY DON'T WE ALL JUST COOL IT?
BOTHER LESTER HERE, AND YOUR HERO'S FALSE EYEBROWS ARE LIABLE TO COME TUMBLING OFF IN THE CLOSING SHOT!
YEAH, OKAY, VINCE...I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT!
JUST KEEP OUT OF CAMERA RANGE NEXT TIME, HUH, LESTER?
YOU KNOW IT, MR. W.!
SO, MR. VINCE STERLING...
BESIDES PLAYING THE GOOD MAGICIAN ON DAYTIME TV, YOU DOUBLE AS PEACE-MAKER!
THE BIG DIFFERENCE, MISS PAGE, IS THAT I DON'T HAVE ANY MAGICAL POWERS OFFSTAGE!
"STRANGE SECRETS" BUFFS MAY KNOW ME AS THE LILY-WHITE FOE OF BAD BROTHER BRIMSTONE...
BUT, IN REAL LIFE, I'M JUST ANOTHER SHY ACTOR ASKING FOR A COKE DATE WITH HIS LEADING LADY!
SOME "LEADING LADY"--MY PART JUST LASTS FOR TWO SHOWS!
BUT, IF YOU MEAN IT ABOUT THAT COKE DATE--
WOULD THE GOOD MAGICIAN LIE TO THE DAMSEL IN DISTRESS?
WE'LL SPLIT AS SOON AS YOU AND OL' BRIMMY DO THOSE RE-TAKES!
SPEAKING OF BRIMSTONE--OR RATHER, OF ROSS ARCHER--
I WONDER WHERE HE'S--OHHHH!
I'LL KILL YOU! I'LL KILL YOU ALL--BEFORE YOU KILL ME--!
6

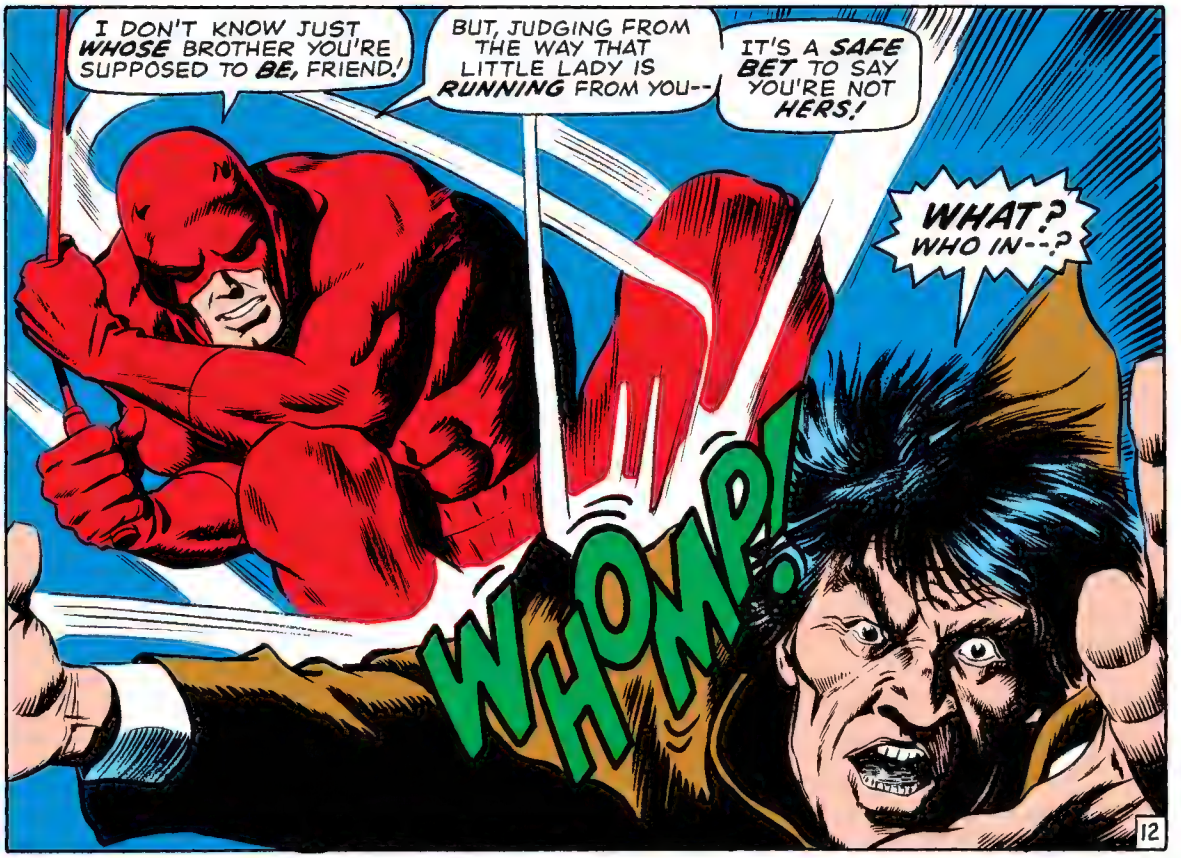
NOW, NOW, JUST LISTEN TO REASON, ARCHER...!
SHUT UP, YOU MISERABLE, HALF-WITTED HACK!
YOU CAN'T JUST KILL OFF BROTHER BRIMSTONE IN ONE OF THOSE CLICHÉ-RIDDEN SCRIPTS OF YOURS!
I'M THE STAR OF "STRANGE SECRETS"-- DO YOU HEAR ME, LAWSON? THE STAR!!
DON'T BLAME ME, OLD BOY! THE DECISION TO KILL OFF YOUR CHARACTER WAS MADE AT THE TOP LEVEL!
THEY DECIDED, I SUPPOSE, THAT EVIL DEMONS DIDN'T SELL SUFFICIENT QUANTITIES OF SOAP!
DO YOU TRULY THINK I DON'T KNOW YOU WERE PLOTTING AGAINST ME --ALL OF YOU?
YOU'RE JEALOUS OF ME--THAT'S WHAT IT IS, ISN'T IT?
ADMIT IT, OR I'LL--
OHHH-- STOP THEM, SOMEBODY! DO SOMETHING!
LET LAWSON GO, ARCHER!
AS LONG AS I'M DIRECTOR ON THIS SET, YOU'RE NOT GOING TO--
THEN PERHAPS YOU WON'T BE DIRECTOR MUCH LONGER, WHEELER!
YOU-- LAWSON-- --STERLING-- YOU'VE ALL BEEN SCHEMING AGAINST ME ALL ALONG, HAVEN'T YOU?
NOBODY'S BEEN SCHEMING AGAINST YOU, ARCHER!
TAKE HIM TO HIS DRESSING ROOM QUIETLY, BOYS!
NO ONE IS TAKING ROSS ARCHER ANYWHERE!
UNHAND ME--OR YOU'LL FIND OUT WHY I WAS CHOSEN TO PLAY BROTHER BRIMSTONE!!

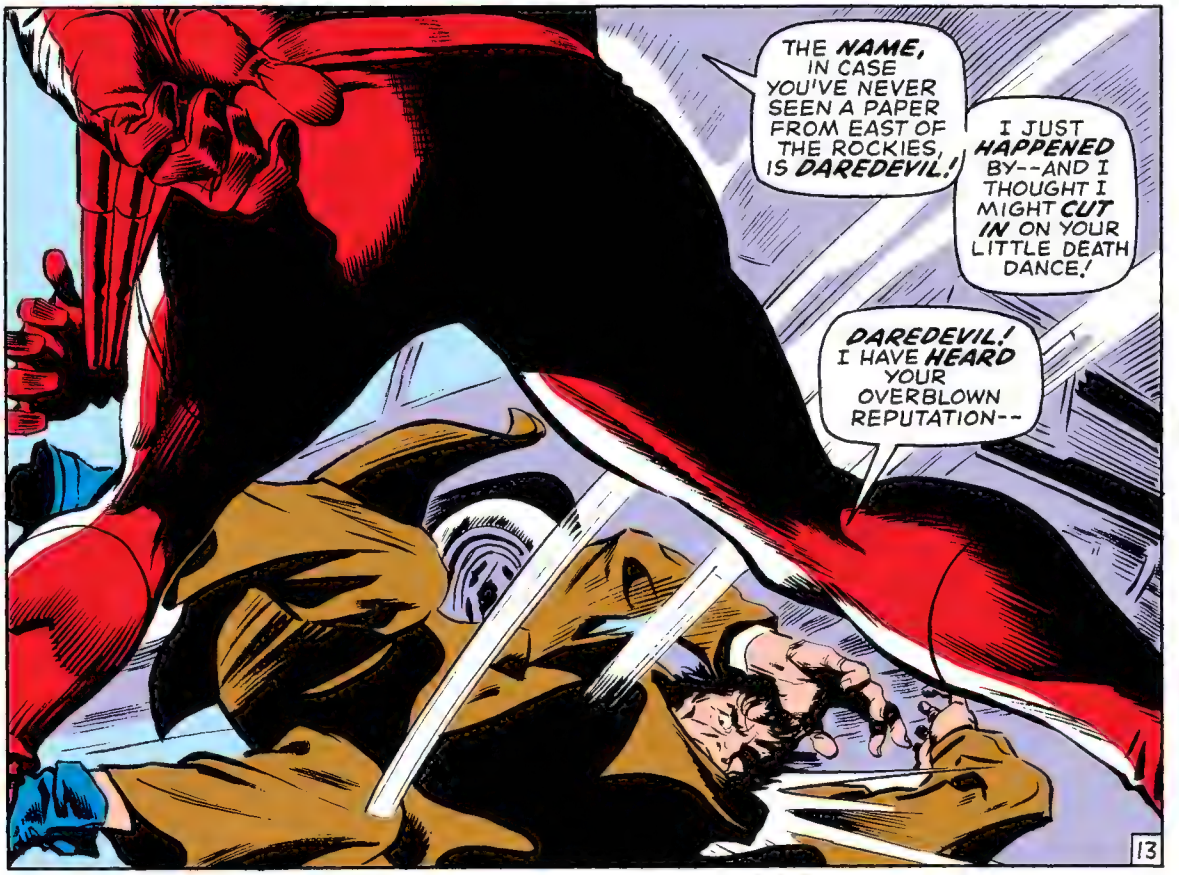

I THINK WE CAN LET HIM GO NOW!
HE'S TOO SENSIBLE TO THINK HE CAN TAKE US ALL ON... AREN'T YOU, ARCHER?
BAH! KEEP AWAY FROM ME, ALL OF YOU, BEFORE I TRAMPLE YOU UNDERFOOT, LIKE INSECTS!
MAYBE WE'RE LUCKY HE DID CALM DOWN ALL BY HIMSELF!
A GUY AS STRONG AS HE IS--CAN BE DANGEROUS!
COME ON... WE'LL HAVE TO USE ARCHER'S STAND-IN FOR THAT FOOTAGE WE NEED!
...SO, THEY THINK THEY ARE RID OF ME, DO THEY?
A FEW CRACKS IN THE ALMIGHTY RATINGS, AND THEY PLAN TO WRITE OUT THE VERY MAN WHO MADE THE SERIES A BYWORD!
THEY'VE ALL GOT THEIR REASONS FOR SHUNTING ME ASIDE...
THERE'S WHEELER, ALWAYS CARPING AT THE WAY I SHOW UP LATE...
...OR STERLING, WAITING ON THE SIDELINES TO BECOME THE MEALY-MOUTHED STAR OF THE SHOW...
...OR PRECIOUS LAWSON, WITH HIS CLAIMS THAT I'VE CORRUPTED THE PART AS HE FIRST WROTE IT!
BUT, HE IS MISTAKEN... JUST AS THEY ALL ARE!
THEY DON'T THINK I CAN PLAY BROTHER BRIMSTONE ... A DEMON WHO HAS BEEN DOOMED TO HAUNT THE EARTH FOREVER!
WELL, PERHAPS ROSS ARCHER WILL HAVE TO SHOW THEM PRECISELY HOW GOOD A JOB OF HAUNTING HE CAN DO!
THEY'LL LEARN A VALUABLE LESSON FROM IT ALL... IF THEY SURVIVE!!
8

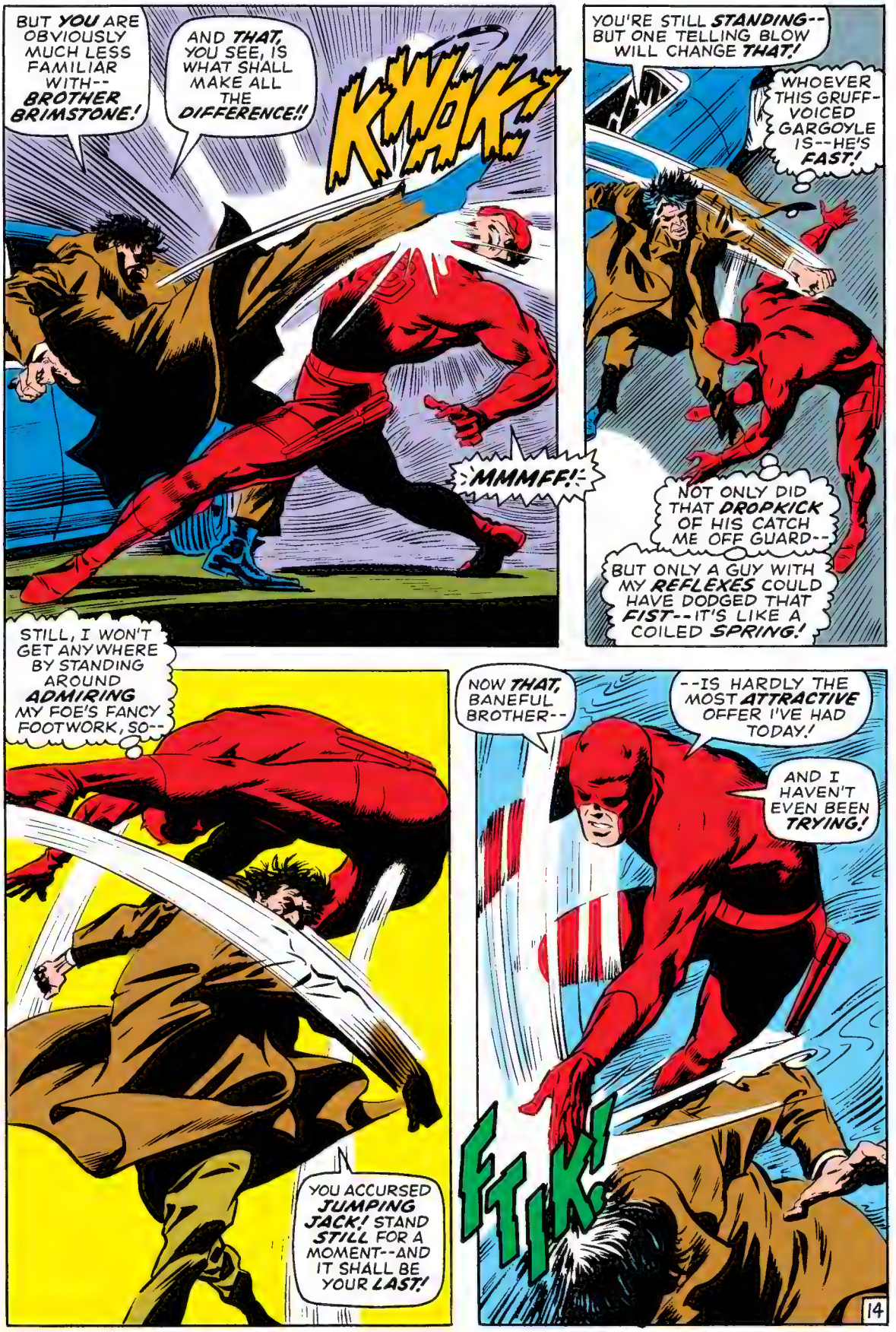

A SHORT TIME LATER, AS THE DAY'S HECTIC TAPING IS CONCLUDED...
YOU PICKED QUITE A TURBULENT DAY FOR YOUR ACTING DEBUT, KAREN!
MAYBE...WE'D BETTER SKIP IT FOR TODAY, VINCE!
BUT, IF YOU'RE STILL IN A MOOD FOR THAT COKE...
I FORGOT THAT SALLY PLANNED TO MAKE DINNER TONIGHT!
BESIDES, I KEEP SEEING... THE BITTERNESS IN ROSS ARCHER'S EYES...!
OH, HE WAS JUST LETTING OFF STEAM!
HE'LL FIND OTHER ROLES... OTHER WORK-CREWS HE CAN BULLY AROUND!
STILL, IF YOU'RE SURE... AND IF YOU WON'T GET LOST IN THIS PEA-SOUP...
THE HORSE KNOWS THE WAY, MR. STERLING!
...VINCE IS FUN, AND JUST WHAT I NEED RIGHT NOW!
HE MAKES ME FORGET SOME OF THE ACHE... THE LONELINESS I FEEL IN MY HEART...FOR MATT!
AND THAT'S GOOD...BECAUSE I DON'T INTEND TO RUN CRYING BACK TO NEW YORK, BEGGING MATT FOR FORGIVENESS!
AFTER ALL, HE'S THE ONE WHO DECEIVED ME FOR SO LONG ...LET ME THINK HE WAS AS HELPLESS AS HE IS BLIND!
I NEED TIME ...TIME TO SORT OUT MY FEELINGS FOR HIM, NOW THAT I KNOW HE'S REALLY DAREDEVIL!
WAIT! WHO'S THAT...?
P-PLEASE, MR. ARCHER--DON'T HURT ME--I P-PROMISE I WON'T STAND IN FOR YOU AGAIN--!
THAT I MAY BE CERTAIN OF, JASON, BECAUSE I INTEND TO--
IT SOUNDS LIKE JERRY JASON...THE MAN WHO ACTS AS ROSS ARCHER'S STAND-IN!
BUT HIS VOICE...IT'S PLEADING FOR HELP...!
EEE EEE
YOU! WHOEVER YOU ARE, STOP THAT SCREAMING, BEFORE I--
KAREN PAGE!
IT APPEARS YOU HAVE BLUNDERED INTO A SCENE WHICH WAS NOT WRITTEN FOR YOU, MISS PAGE!
EEEEEEEEEEEE
9

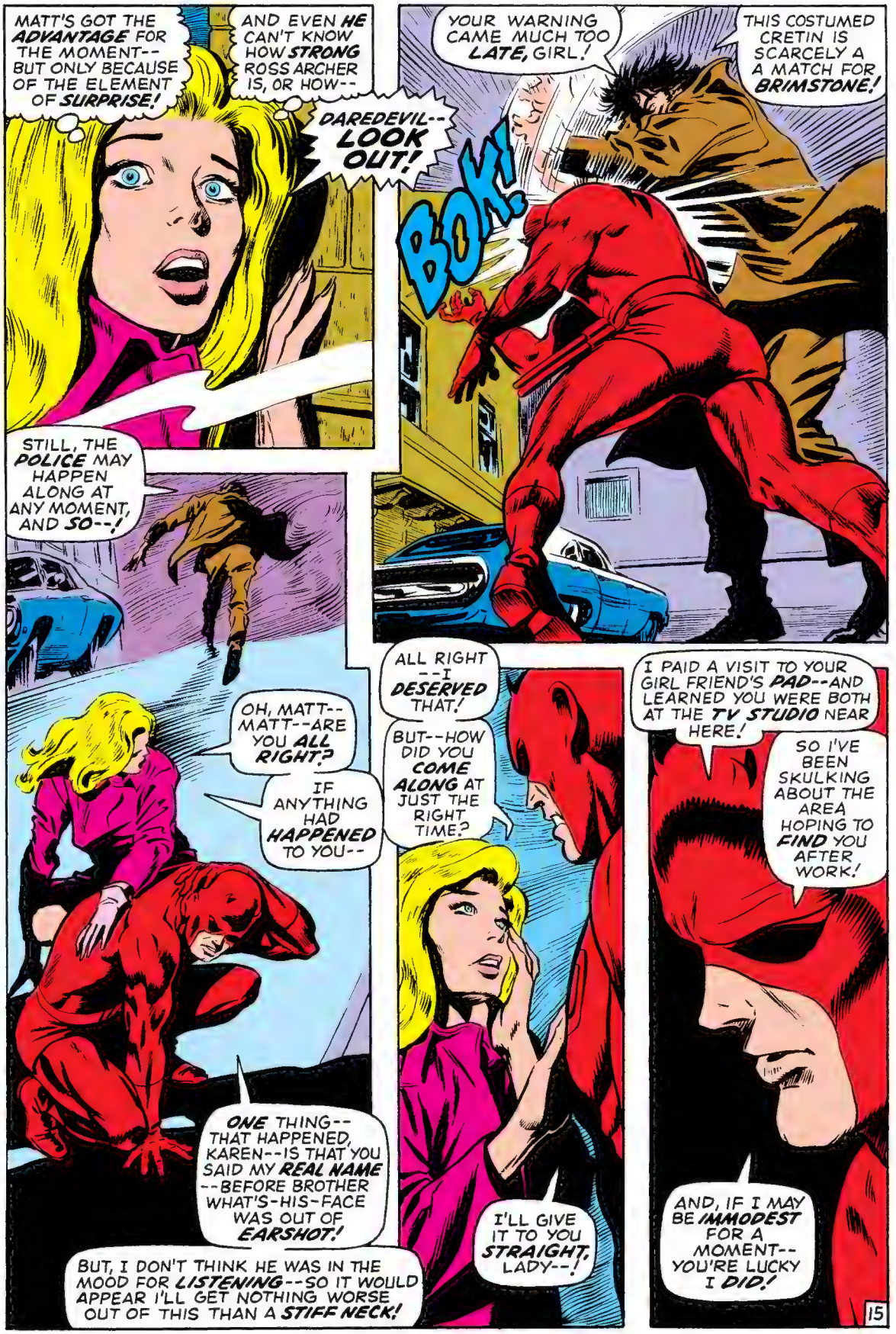
WHAT? SO--THE STAND-IN WANTS TO TRADE BLOWS WITH THE ORIGINAL!
DON'T YOU KNOW I CAN CRUSH YOU LIKE A FLEA?
CORRECTION, "BROTHER BRIMSTONE"--
YOU CAN TRY!
WOK!
YOU NAMELESS LITTLE NOTHING!
SO YOU'RE IN IT WITH THEM-- PLOTTING-- PLANNING AGAINST ME!
THEN, IF YOU WOULD SHARE IN THEIR SPOILS-- YOU SHALL SHARE ALSO THEIR FATE!
UNNHHH!
THEN, I SHALL SEE TO IT THAT YOU NEVER ACT AS ANYONE'S BETRAYER AGAIN--
SO--IT WOULD SEEM YOU HAVE NO MORE TO SAY ON THE SUBJECT!
10

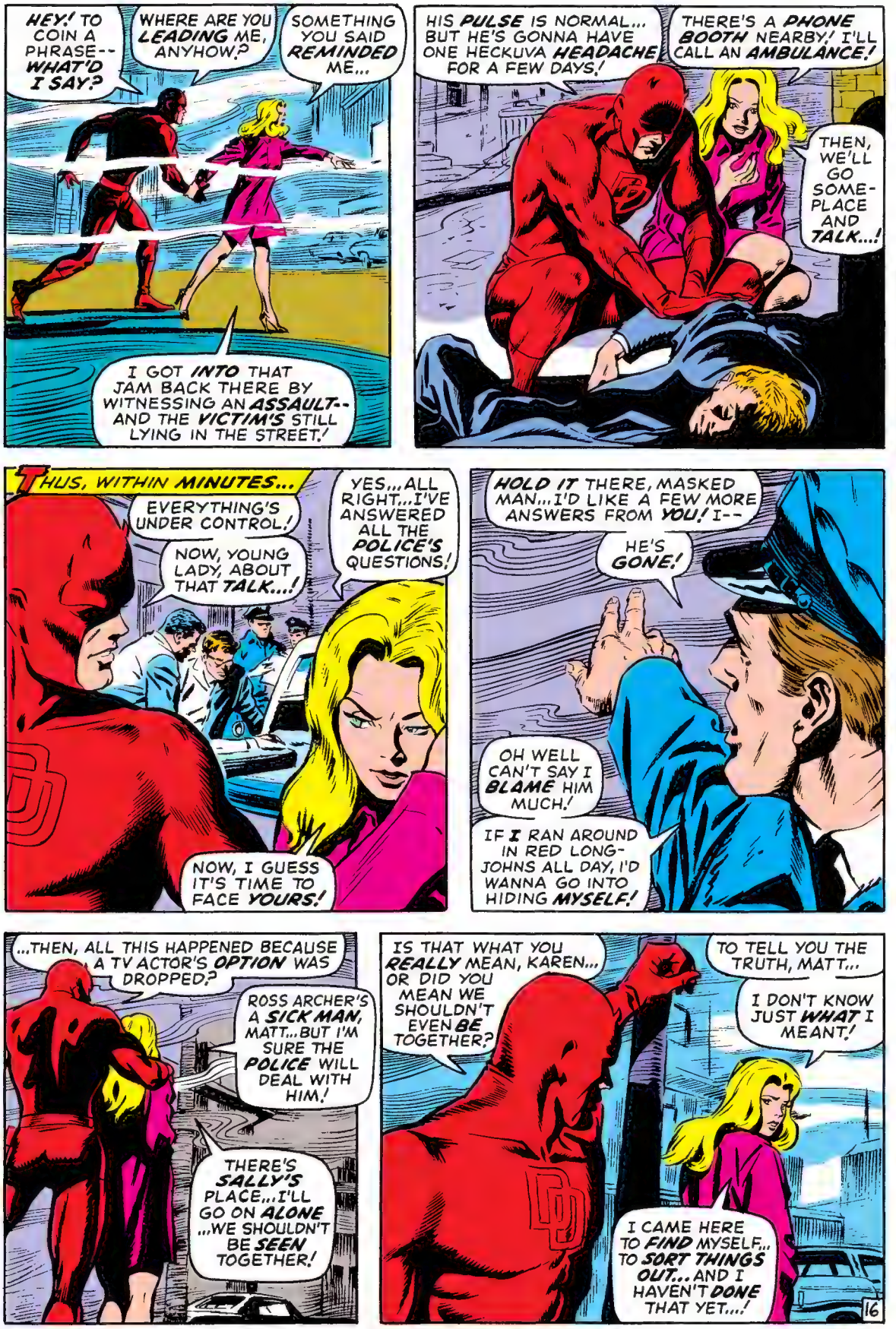
--AFTER I ATTEND TO THE LONE WITNESS OF OUR LITTLE ALTERCATION.
NO! NNOOOOO!
THIS IS MAD--INSANE! THIS FOG--THE DIABOLICAL FIGURE CHASING ME--
IT'S LIKE THE SCENE FROM TODAY'S SHOW--BUT IT'S REAL--!!
STOP, YOU LITTLE FOOL! THERE IS NO HIDING... NO ESCAPE... FROM BROTHER BRIMSTONE!
YET, SO INTENT IS KAREN'S MACABRE PURSUER THAT HE DOES NOT NOTICE A SILENT, SCARLET FORM SWOOPING DOWN TOWARDS HIM FROM OUT OF THE ENVELOPING MIST--
HEE
--DOES NOT NOTICE, THAT IS--
--UNTIL IT IS TOO LATE!
11

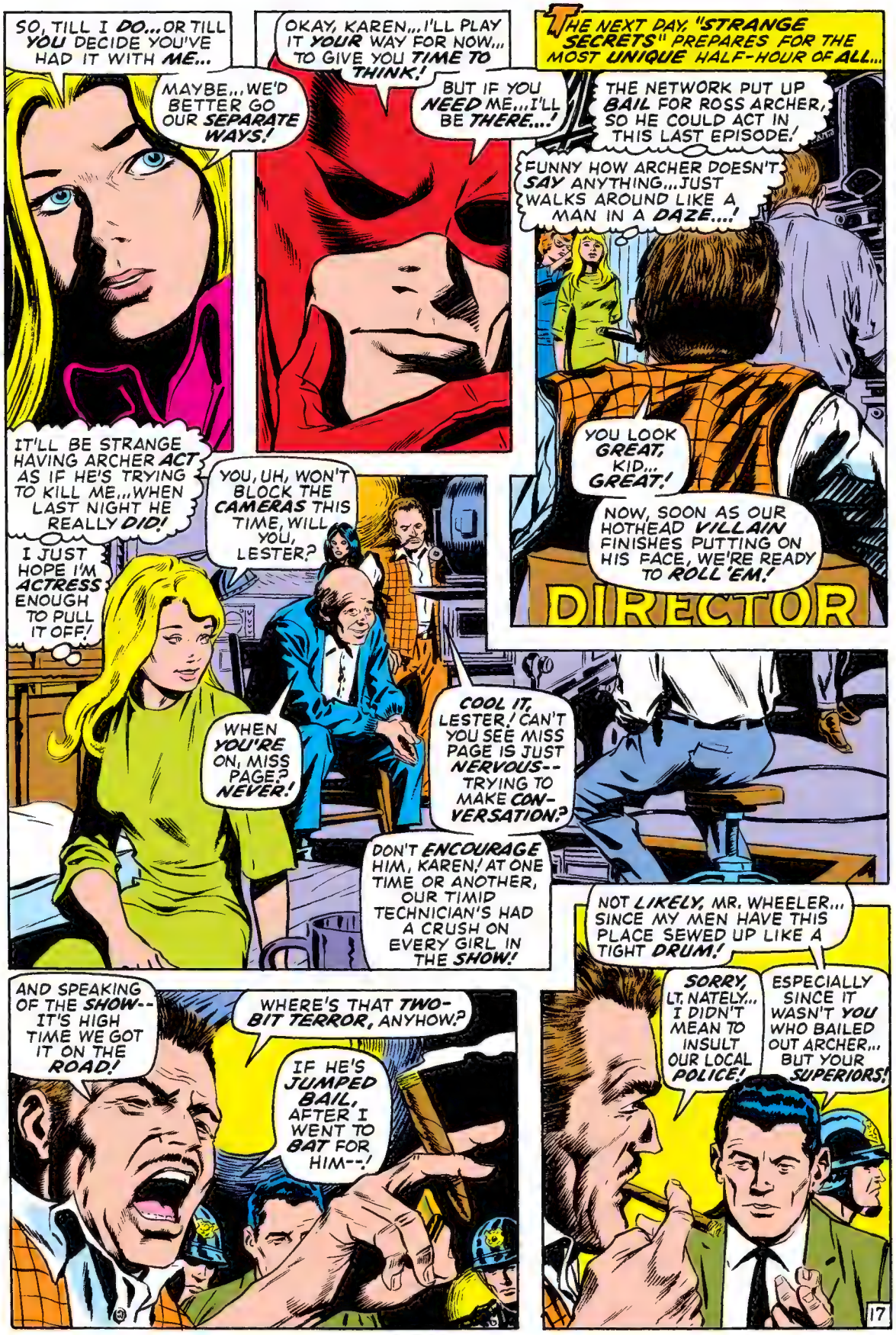

I DON'T KNOW JUST WHOSE BROTHER YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE, FRIEND!
BUT, JUDGING FROM THE WAY THAT LITTLE LADY IS RUNNING FROM YOU--
IT'S A SAFE BET TO SAY YOU'RE NOT HERS!
WHAT? WHO IN--?
WHOMP!
12

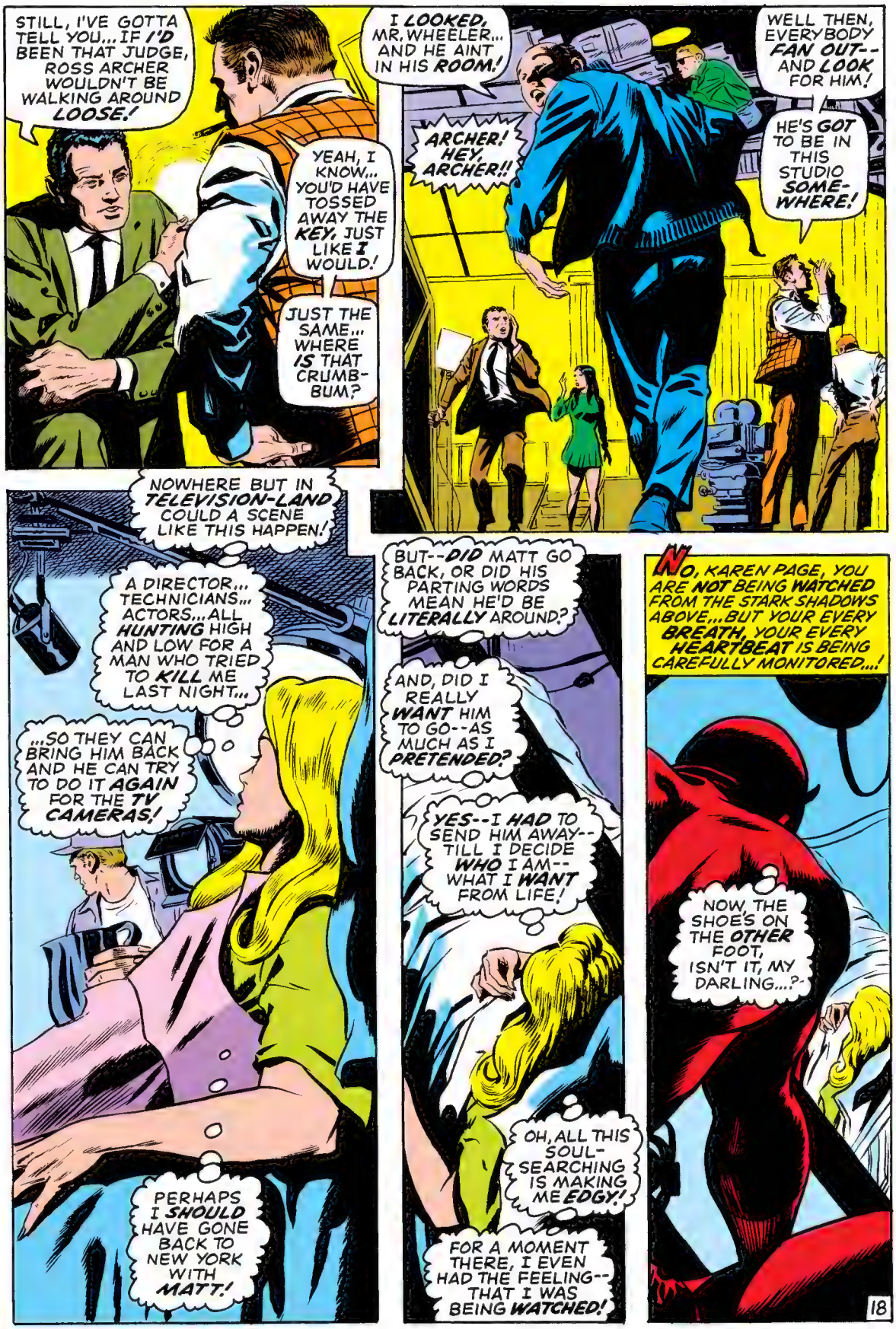

THE NAME, IN CASE YOU'VE NEVER SEEN A PAPER FROM EAST OF THE ROCKIES, IS DAREDEVIL!
I JUST HAPPENED BY--AND I THOUGHT I MIGHT CUT IN ON YOUR LITTLE DEATH DANCE!
DAREDEVIL! I HAVE HEARD YOUR OVERBLOWN REPUTATION--
13


BUT YOU ARE OBVIOUSLY MUCH LESS FAMILIAR WITH-- BROTHER BRIMSTONE!
AND THAT, YOU SEE, IS WHAT SHALL MAKE ALL THE DIFFERENCE!!
KWAK!
MMMFF!
YOU'RE STILL STANDING-- BUT ONE TELLING BLOW WILL CHANGE THAT!
WHOEVER THIS GRUFF-VOICED GARGOYLE IS--HE'S FAST!
NOT ONLY DID THAT DROPKICK OF HIS CATCH ME OFF GUARD--
BUT ONLY A GUY WITH MY REFLEXES COULD HAVE DODGED THAT FIST--IT'S LIKE A COILED SPRING!
STILL, I WON'T GET ANYWHERE BY STANDING AROUND ADMIRING MY FOE'S FANCY FOOTWORK, SO--
YOU ACCURSED JUMPING JACK! STAND STILL FOR A MOMENT--AND IT SHALL BE YOUR LAST!
NOW THAT, BANEFUL BROTHER--
--IS HARDLY THE MOST ATTRACTIVE OFFER I'VE HAD TODAY!
AND I HAVEN'T EVEN BEEN TRYING!
FTIK!
14

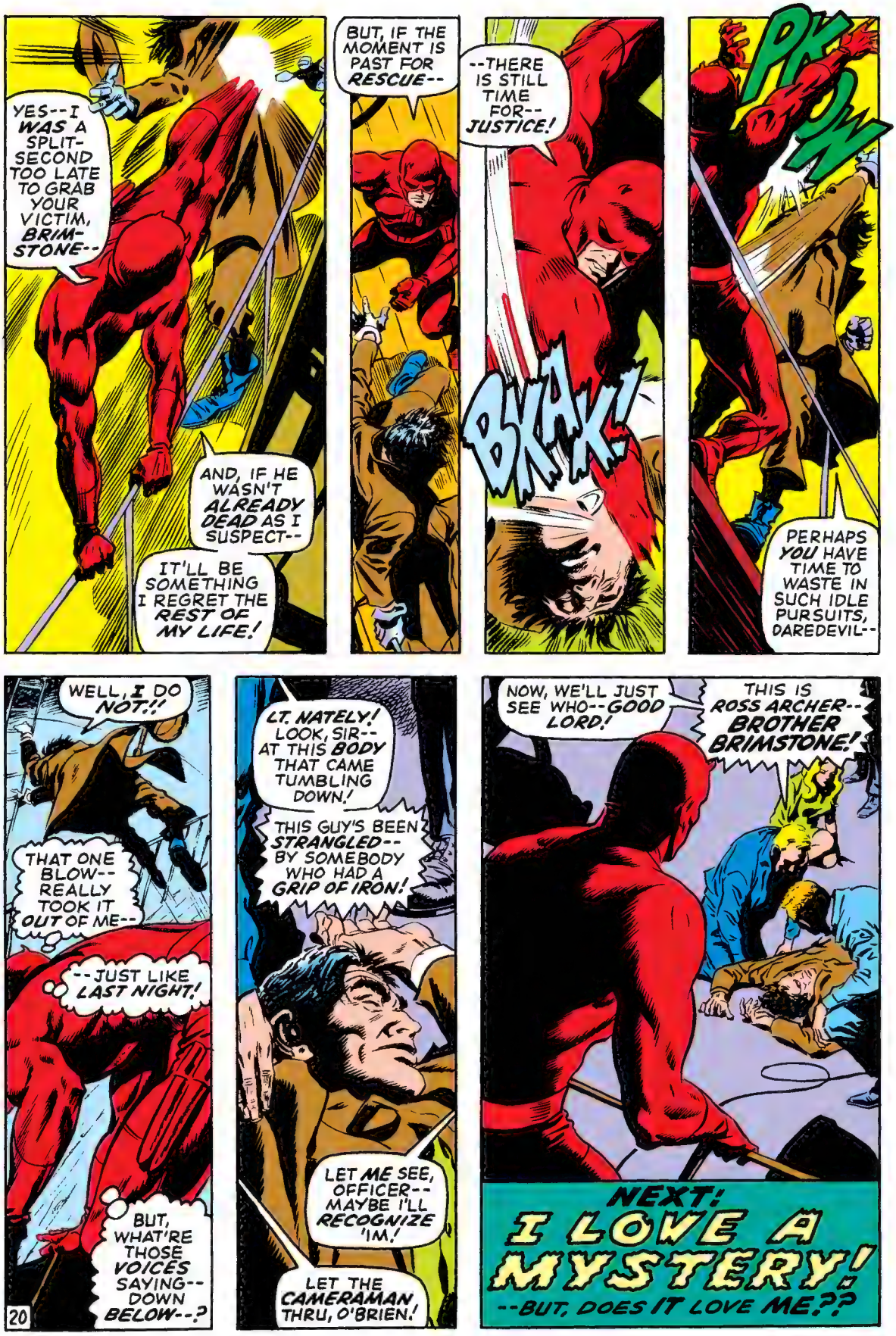

MATT'S GOT THE ADVANTAGE FOR THE MOMENT--BUT ONLY BECAUSE OF THE ELEMENT OF SURPRISE!
AND EVEN HE CAN'T KNOW HOW STRONG ROSS ARCHER IS, OR HOW--
DAREDEVIL--LOOK OUT!
YOUR WARNING CAME MUCH TOO LATE, GIRL!
THIS COSTUMED CRETIN IS SCARCELY A A MATCH FOR BRIMSTONE!
BOK!
STILL, THE POLICE MAY HAPPEN ALONG AT ANY MOMENT, AND SO--!
OH, MATT--MATT--ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
IF ANYTHING HAD HAPPENED TO YOU--
ALL RIGHT--I DESERVED THAT!
BUT--HOW DID YOU COME ALONG AT JUST THE RIGHT TIME?
I PAID A VISIT TO YOUR GIRL FRIEND'S PAD--AND LEARNED YOU WERE BOTH AT THE TV STUDIO NEAR HERE!
SO I'VE BEEN SKULKING ABOUT THE AREA HOPING TO FIND YOU AFTER WORK!
ONE THING--THAT HAPPENED, KAREN--IS THAT YOU SAID MY REAL NAME--BEFORE BROTHER WHAT'S-HIS-FACE WAS OUT OF EARSHOT!
BUT, I DON'T THINK HE WAS IN THE MOOD FOR LISTENING--SO IT WOULD APPEAR I'LL GET NOTHING WORSE OUT OF THIS THAN A STIFF NECK!
I'LL GIVE IT TO YOU STRAIGHT, LADY--!
AND, IF I MAY BE IMMODEST FOR A MOMENT--YOU'RE LUCKY I DID!


HEY! TO COIN A PHRASE-- WHAT'D I SAY?
WHERE ARE YOU LEADING ME, ANYHOW?
SOMETHING YOU SAID REMINDED ME...
I GOT INTO THAT JAM BACK THERE BY WITNESSING AN ASSAULT-- AND THE VICTIM'S STILL LYING IN THE STREET!
HIS PULSE IS NORMAL... BUT HE'S GONNA HAVE ONE HECKUVA HEADACHE FOR A FEW DAYS!
THERE'S A PHONE BOOTH NEARBY! I'LL CALL AN AMBULANCE!
THEN, WE'LL GO SOME-PLACE AND TALK...!
THUS, WITHIN MINUTES...
EVERYTHING'S UNDER CONTROL!
NOW, YOUNG LADY, ABOUT THAT TALK...!
YES,..ALL RIGHT...I'VE ANSWERED ALL THE POLICE'S QUESTIONS!
NOW, I GUESS IT'S TIME TO FACE YOURS!
HOLD IT THERE, MASKED MAN...I'D LIKE A FEW MORE ANSWERS FROM YOU! I--
HE'S GONE!
OH WELL CAN'T SAY I BLAME HIM MUCH!
IF I RAN AROUND IN RED LONG-JOHNS ALL DAY, I'D WANNA GO INTO HIDING MYSELF!
...THEN, ALL THIS HAPPENED BECAUSE A TV ACTOR'S OPTION WAS DROPPED?
ROSS ARCHER'S A SICK MAN, MATT...BUT I'M SURE THE POLICE WILL DEAL WITH HIM!
THERE'S SALLY'S PLACE...I'LL GO ON ALONE ...WE SHOULDN'T BE SEEN TOGETHER!
IS THAT WHAT YOU REALLY MEAN, KAREN... OR DID YOU MEAN WE SHOULDN'T EVEN BE TOGETHER?
TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH, MATT...
I DON'T KNOW JUST WHAT I MEANT!
I CAME HERE TO FIND MYSELF... TO SORT THINGS OUT... AND I HAVEN'T DONE THAT YET...!
16


SO, TILL I DO... OR TILL YOU DECIDE YOU'VE HAD IT WITH ME...
MAYBE... WE'D BETTER GO OUR SEPARATE WAYS!
OKAY, KAREN... I'LL PLAY IT YOUR WAY FOR NOW... TO GIVE YOU TIME TO THINK!
BUT IF YOU NEED ME... I'LL BE THERE...!
THE NEXT DAY, "STRANGE SECRETS" PREPARES FOR THE MOST UNIQUE HALF-HOUR OF ALL...
THE NETWORK PUT UP BAIL FOR ROSS ARCHER, SO HE COULD ACT IN THIS LAST EPISODE!
FUNNY HOW ARCHER DOESN'T SAY ANYTHING... JUST WALKS AROUND LIKE A MAN IN A DAZE...!
YOU LOOK GREAT, KID... GREAT!
NOW, SOON AS OUR HOTHEAD VILLAIN FINISHES PUTTING ON HIS FACE, WE'RE READY TO ROLL 'EM!
DIRECTOR
IT'LL BE STRANGE HAVING ARCHER ACT AS IF HE'S TRYING TO KILL ME... WHEN LAST NIGHT HE REALLY DID!
I JUST HOPE I'M ACTRESS ENOUGH TO PULL IT OFF!
YOU, UH, WON'T BLOCK THE CAMERAS THIS TIME, WILL YOU, LESTER?
WHEN YOU'RE ON, MISS PAGE? NEVER!
COOL IT, LESTER! CAN'T YOU SEE MISS PAGE IS JUST NERVOUS-- TRYING TO MAKE CONVERSATION?
DON'T ENCOURAGE HIM, KAREN! AT ONE TIME OR ANOTHER, OUR TIMID TECHNICIAN'S HAD A CRUSH ON EVERY GIRL IN THE SHOW!
NOT LIKELY, MR. WHEELER... SINCE MY MEN HAVE THIS PLACE SEWED UP LIKE A TIGHT DRUM!
SORRY, LT. NATELY... I DIDN'T MEAN TO INSULT OUR LOCAL POLICE!
ESPECIALLY SINCE IT WASN'T YOU WHO BAILED OUT ARCHER... BUT YOUR SUPERIORS!
AND SPEAKING OF THE SHOW-- IT'S HIGH TIME WE GOT IT ON THE ROAD!
WHERE'S THAT TWO-BIT TERROR, ANYHOW?
IF HE'S JUMPED BAIL, AFTER I WENT TO BAT FOR HIM--!
17

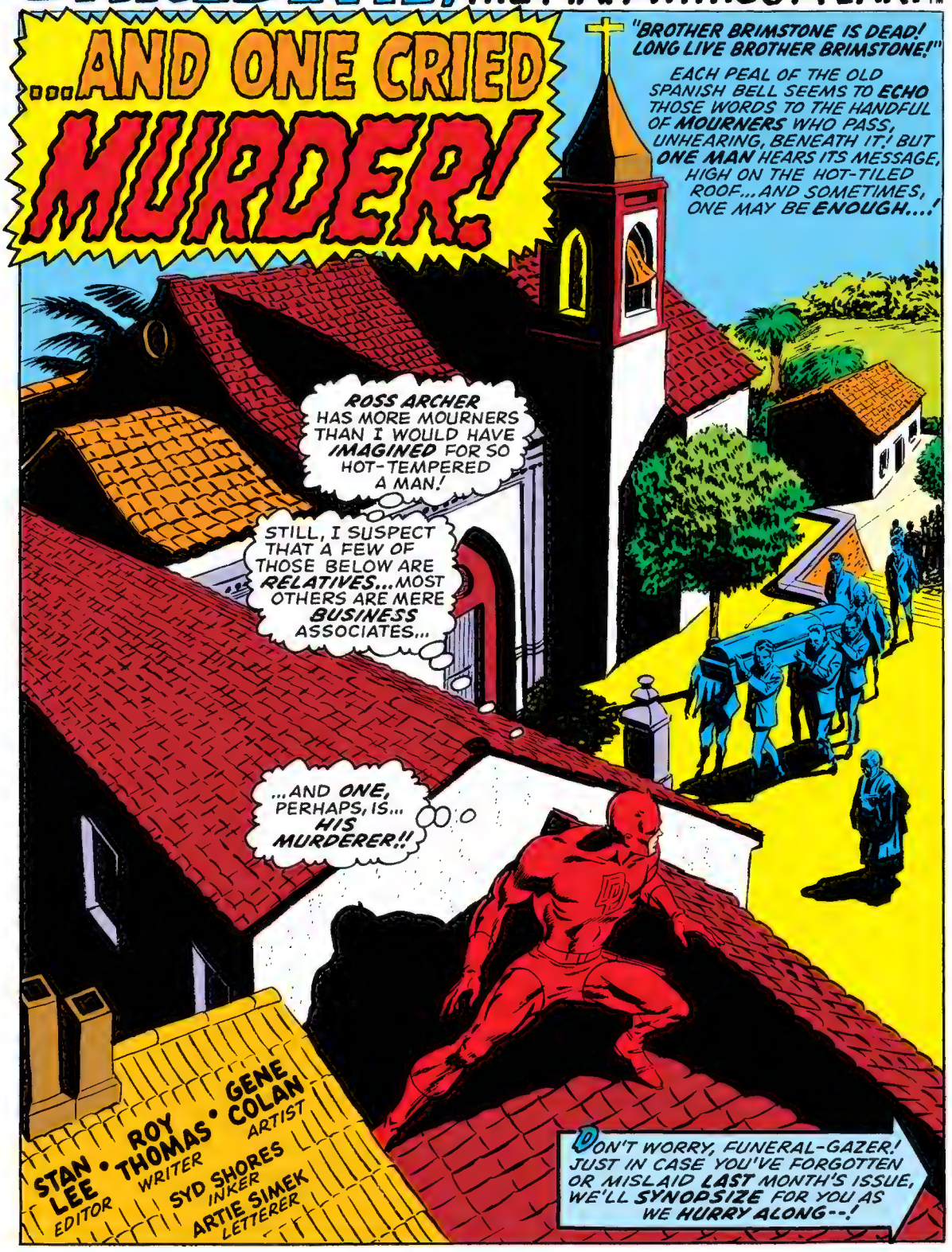

STILL, I'VE GOTTA TELL YOU... IF I'D BEEN THAT JUDGE, ROSS ARCHER WOULDN'T BE WALKING AROUND LOOSE!
YEAH, I KNOW... YOU'D HAVE TOSSED AWAY THE KEY, JUST LIKE I WOULD!
JUST THE SAME... WHERE IS THAT CRUMB-BUM?
I LOOKED, MR. WHEELER... AND HE AINT IN HIS ROOM!
ARCHER! HEY, ARCHER!!
WELL THEN, EVERYBODY FAN OUT-- AND LOOK FOR HIM!
HE'S GOT TO BE IN THIS STUDIO SOME-WHERE!
NOWHERE BUT IN TELEVISION-LAND COULD A SCENE LIKE THIS HAPPEN!
A DIRECTOR... TECHNICIANS... ACTORS... ALL HUNTING HIGH AND LOW FOR A MAN WHO TRIED TO KILL ME LAST NIGHT...
...SO THEY CAN BRING HIM BACK AND HE CAN TRY TO DO IT AGAIN FOR THE TV CAMERAS!
PERHAPS I SHOULD HAVE GONE BACK TO NEW YORK WITH MATT!
BUT--DID MATT GO BACK, OR DID HIS PARTING WORDS MEAN HE'D BE LITERALLY AROUND?
AND, DID I REALLY WANT HIM TO GO--AS MUCH AS I PRETENDED?
YES--I HAD TO SEND HIM AWAY-- TILL I DECIDE WHO I AM-- WHAT I WANT FROM LIFE!
OH, ALL THIS SOUL-SEARCHING IS MAKING ME EDGY!
FOR A MOMENT THERE, I EVEN HAD THE FEELING-- THAT I WAS BEING WATCHED!
NO, KAREN PAGE, YOU ARE NOT BEING WATCHED FROM THE STARK SHADOWS ABOVE... BUT YOUR EVERY BREATH, YOUR EVERY HEARTBEAT IS BEING CAREFULLY MONITORED...!
NOW, THE SHOE'S ON THE OTHER FOOT, ISN'T IT, MY DARLING...?
18

NOW IT'S MATT MURDOCK WHO'S FRANTIC ABOUT YOUR SAFETY--RATHER THAN VICE VERSA!
NOW, AT LAST, I KNOW HOW IT FEELS TO FEAR FOR SOMEONE--WHO HAS SHUT YOU OUT OF PART OF HER LIFE!
I CAN HEAR YOUR HEART BEATING FAST, KAREN--YOUR PULSE RACING WITH EMOTION!
IF ONLY I THOUGHT--A LITTLE PART OF THAT FEELING WAS FOR ME--!
WHAT'S THAT SOUND?
A MAN'S SHOE--CREAKING ON THE CATWALK ABOVE ME!
I WAS CARE-LESS... DIDN'T HEAR HIM COMING...!
SKRIKK
YOU STARE UPWARD AS IF THRU UN-SEEING EYES, MY DEAR DAREDEVIL!
HAVE YOU ALREADY FORGOTTEN --BROTHER BRIMSTONE?
THE MAN THEY'RE ALL LOOKING FOR IS ABOVE ME --AND STRAIN-ING AS IF HE'S CARRYING SOMETHING!
THEN--WHY DON'T I HEAR ANY HEARTBEAT?
NO TIME TO WORRY ABOUT THAT NOW!
HE'S LIFT-ING HIS LIMP BURDEN OVER HIS HEAD--AND MY RADAR SENSE TELLS ME--
THAT BURDEN HAS THE SHAPE OF--A MAN'S BODY!
GOT TO--
I PERCEIVE YOUR NOBLE AIMS, MY MASKED FRIEND--
BUT--YOU ARE FAR, FAR TOO LATE!!
19


YES--I WAS A SPLIT-SECOND TOO LATE TO GRAB YOUR VICTIM, BRIM-STONE--
AND, IF HE WASN'T ALREADY DEAD AS I SUSPECT--
IT'LL BE SOMETHING I REGRET THE REST OF MY LIFE!
BUT, IF THE MOMENT IS PAST FOR RESCUE--
--THERE IS STILL TIME FOR-- JUSTICE!
BKAK!
PK OW
PERHAPS YOU HAVE TIME TO WASTE IN SUCH IDLE PURSUITS, DAREDEVIL--
WELL, I DO NOT!!
THAT ONE BLOW-- REALLY TOOK IT OUT OF ME--
--JUST LIKE LAST NIGHT!
BUT, WHAT'RE THOSE VOICES SAYING-- DOWN BELOW--?
LT. NATELY! LOOK, SIR-- AT THIS BODY THAT CAME TUMBLING DOWN!
THIS GUY'S BEEN STRANGLED-- BY SOMEBODY WHO HAD A GRIP OF IRON!
LET ME SEE, OFFICER-- MAYBE I'LL RECOGNIZE 'IM!
LET THE CAMERAMAN THRU, O'BRIEN!
NOW, WE'LL JUST SEE WHO--GOOD LORD!
THIS IS ROSS ARCHER-- BROTHER BRIMSTONE!
NEXT!
I LOVE A MYSTERY!
--BUT, DOES IT LOVE ME??

DARE-DEVIL
15¢
66
JULY
DAREDEVIL
THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR!
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
IF I DIE HERE.. AND NOW-- I'LL BE THE VICTIM OF A PERFECT CRIME!
MY BODY WILL BE HIDDEN FOR A MILLION YEARS!
MARVEL COMICS GROUP
TRAPPED IN THE TAR PITS OF DEATH!

DAREDEVIL, THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR!™


...AND ONE CRIED MURDER!
"BROTHER BRIMSTONE IS DEAD! LONG LIVE BROTHER BRIMSTONE!"
EACH PEAL OF THE OLD SPANISH BELL SEEMS TO ECHO THOSE WORDS TO THE HANDFUL OF MOURNERS WHO PASS, UNHEARING, BENEATH IT! BUT ONE MAN HEARS ITS MESSAGE, HIGH ON THE HOT-TILED ROOF... AND SOMETIMES, ONE MAY BE ENOUGH...!
ROSS ARCHER HAS MORE MOURNERS THAN I WOULD HAVE IMAGINED FOR SO HOT-TEMPERED A MAN!
STILL, I SUSPECT THAT A FEW OF THOSE BELOW ARE RELATIVES... MOST OTHERS ARE MERE BUSINESS ASSOCIATES...
...AND ONE, PERHAPS, IS... HIS MURDERER!!
STAN LEE EDITOR • ROY THOMAS WRITER • GENE COLAN ARTIST
SYD SHORES INKER
ARTIE SIMEK LETTERER
DON'T WORRY, FUNERAL-GAZER! JUST IN CASE YOU'VE FORGOTTEN OR MISLAID LAST MONTH'S ISSUE, WE'LL SYNOPSIZE FOR YOU AS WE HURRY ALONG--!

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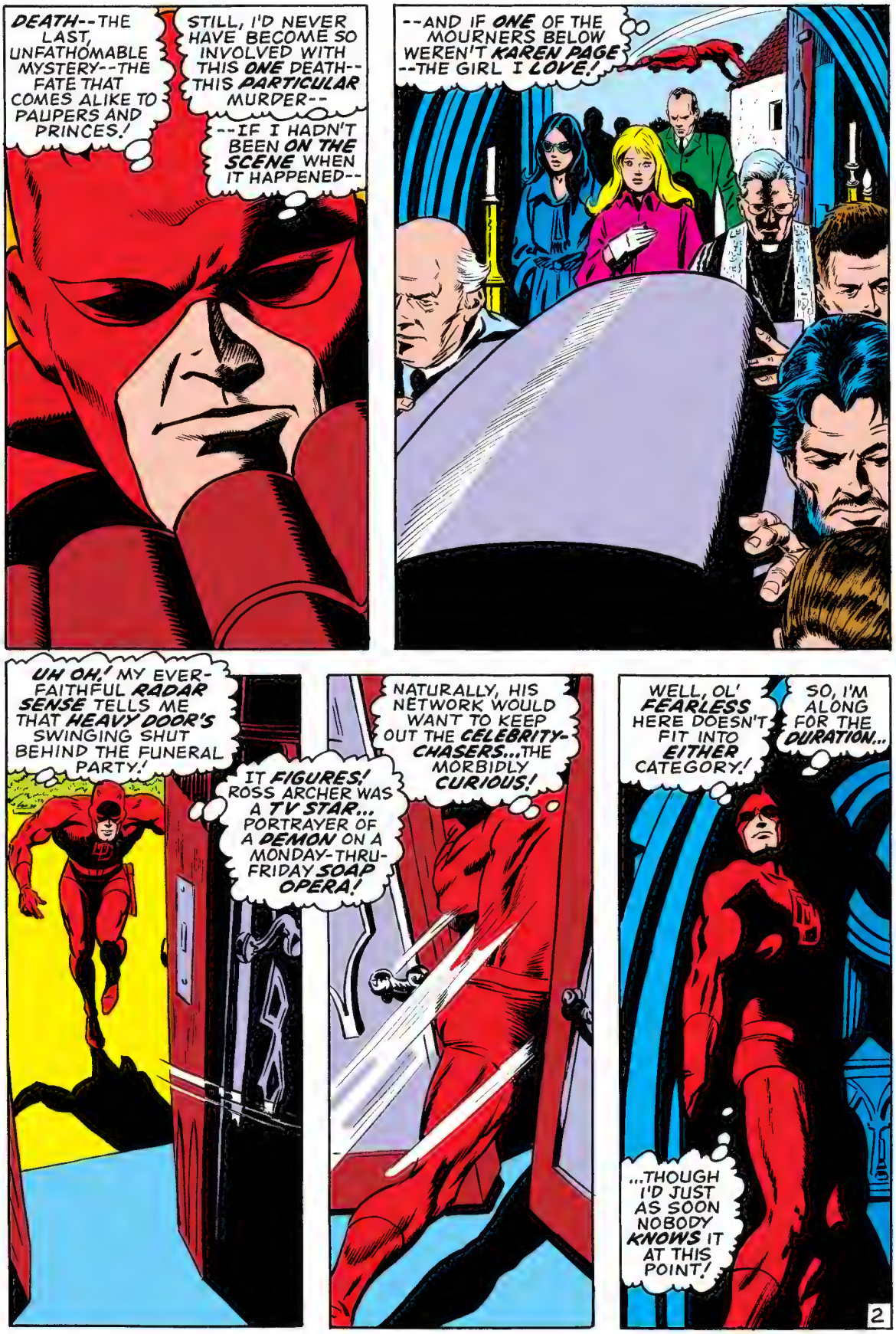
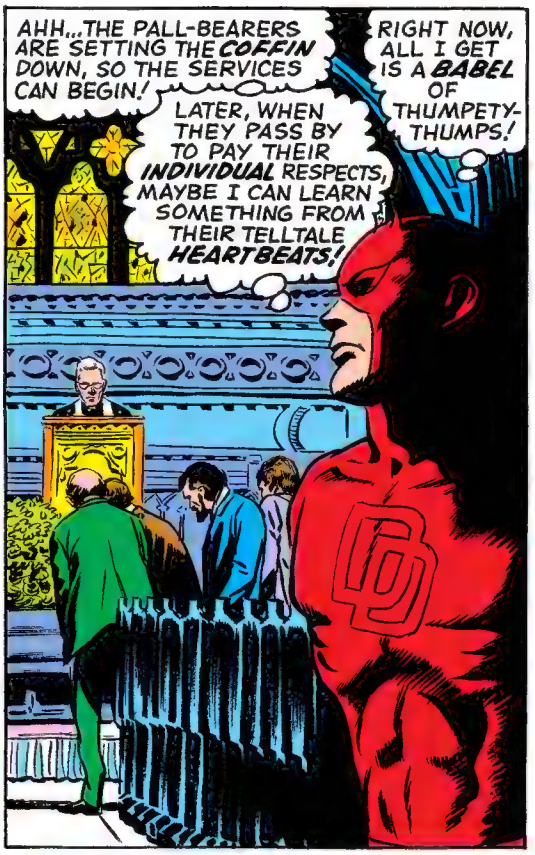
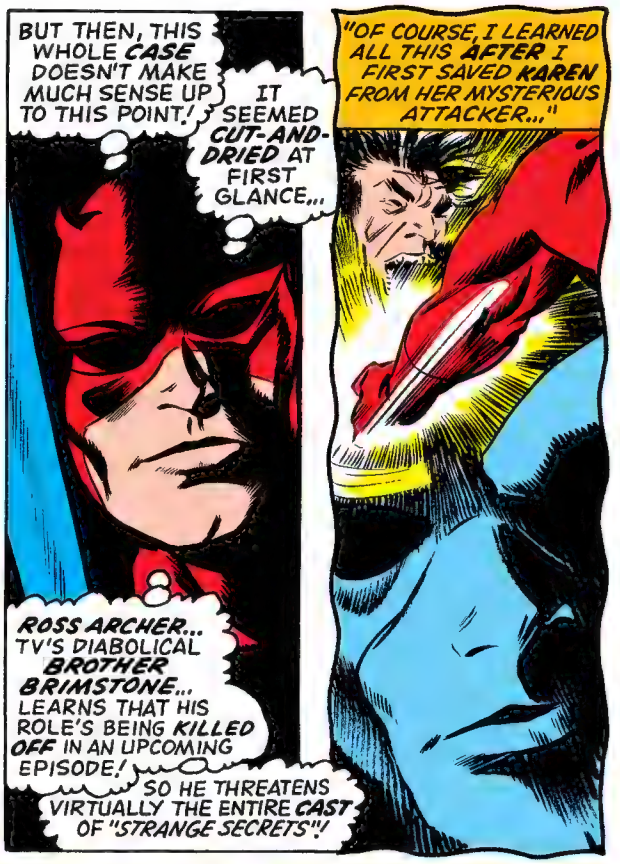
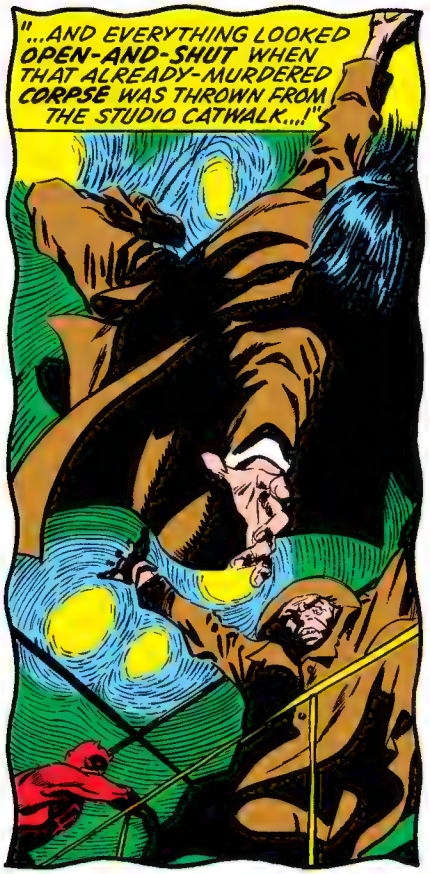

DEATH--THE LAST, UNFATHOMABLE MYSTERY--THE FATE THAT COMES ALIKE TO PAUPERS AND PRINCES!
STILL, I'D NEVER HAVE BECOME SO INVOLVED WITH THIS ONE DEATH--THIS PARTICULAR MURDER--
--IF I HADN'T BEEN ON THE SCENE WHEN IT HAPPENED--
--AND IF ONE OF THE MOURNERS BELOW WEREN'T KAREN PAGE --THE GIRL I LOVE!
UH OH! MY EVER-FAITHFUL RADAR SENSE TELLS ME THAT HEAVY DOOR'S SWINGING SHUT BEHIND THE FUNERAL PARTY!
IT FIGURES! ROSS ARCHER WAS A TV STAR... PORTRAYER OF A DEMON ON A MONDAY-THRU-FRIDAY SOAP OPERA!
NATURALLY, HIS NETWORK WOULD WANT TO KEEP OUT THE CELEBRITY-CHASERS...THE MORBIDLY CURIOUS!
WELL, OL' FEARLESS HERE DOESN'T FIT INTO EITHER CATEGORY!
SO, I'M ALONG FOR THE DURATION...
...THOUGH I'D JUST AS SOON NOBODY KNOWS IT AT THIS POINT!
2


AHH...THE PALL-BEARERS ARE SETTING THE COFFIN DOWN, SO THE SERVICES CAN BEGIN!
RIGHT NOW, ALL I GET IS A BABEL OF THUMPETY-THUMPS!
LATER, WHEN THEY PASS BY TO PAY THEIR INDIVIDUAL RESPECTS, MAYBE I CAN LEARN SOMETHING FROM THEIR TELLTALE HEARTBEATS!


BUT THEN, THIS WHOLE CASE DOESN'T MAKE MUCH SENSE UP TO THIS POINT!
IT SEEMED CUT-AND-DRIED AT FIRST GLANCE...
ROSS ARCHER... TV'S DIABOLICAL BROTHER BRIMSTONE... LEARNS THAT HIS ROLE'S BEING KILLED OFF IN AN UPCOMING EPISODE!
SO HE THREATENS VIRTUALLY THE ENTIRE CAST OF "STRANGE SECRETS"!
"OF COURSE, I LEARNED ALL THIS AFTER I FIRST SAVED KAREN FROM HER MYSTERIOUS ATTACKER..."

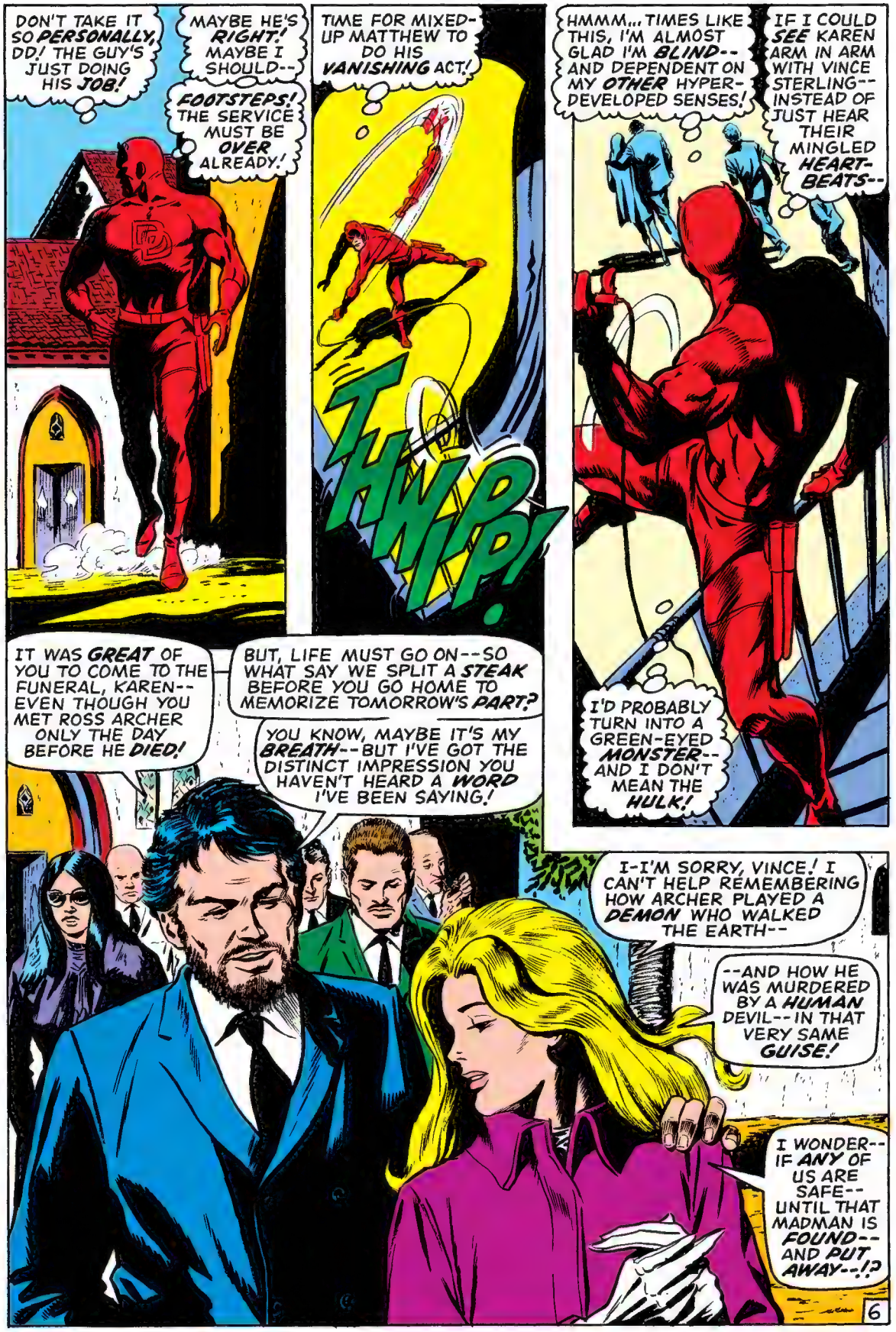

"...AND EVERYTHING LOOKED OPEN-AND-SHUT WHEN THAT ALREADY-MURDERED CORPSE WAS THROWN FROM THE STUDIO CATWALK...!"

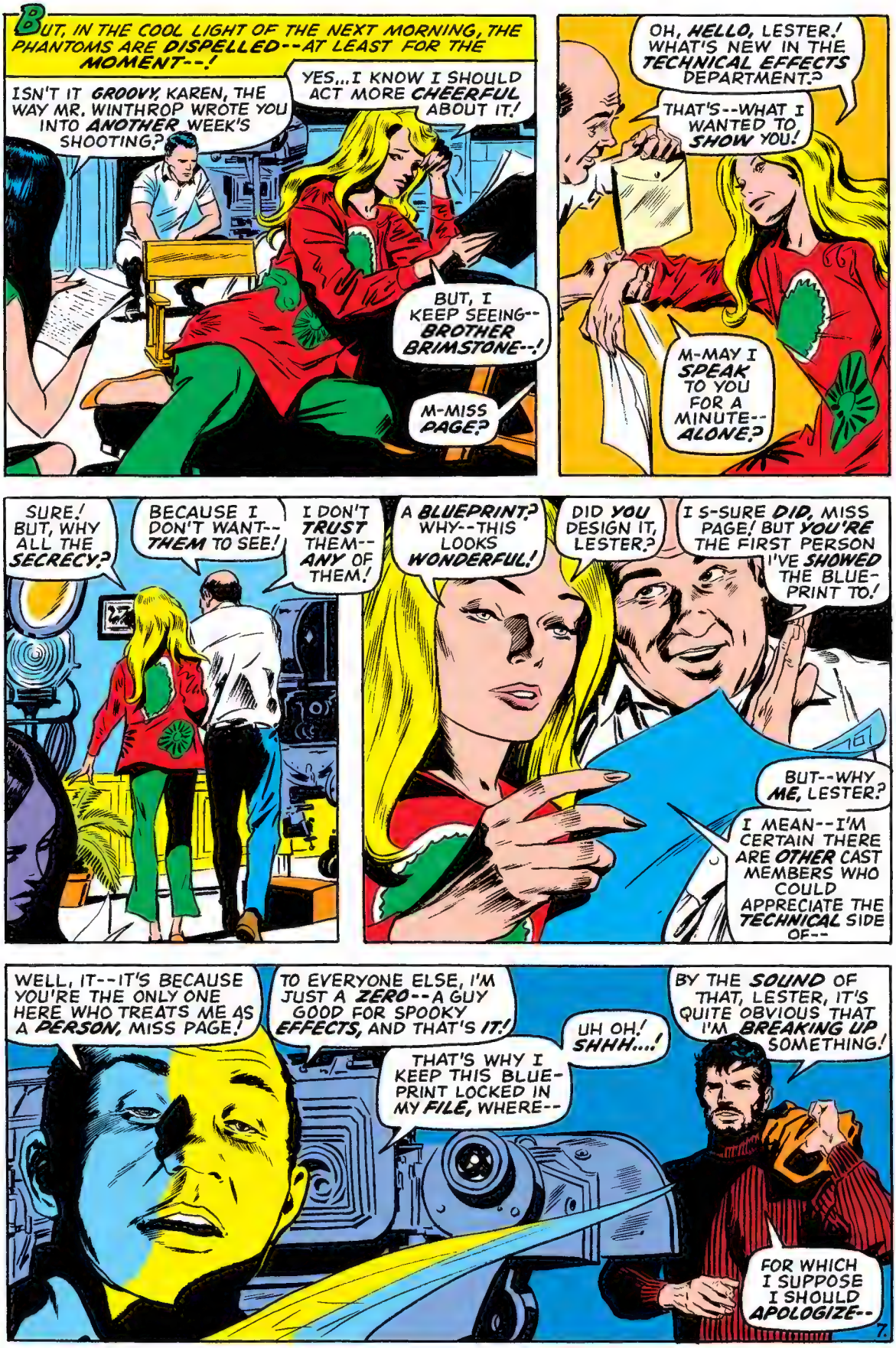
"EVEN BRIMSTONE'S FIERCE BLOWS MERELY CONFIRMED THE RUMORS I HAD HEARD OF ARCHER'S PRODIGIOUS STRENGTH...!"

"BUT, ALMOST BEFORE THOSE SINISTER FOOTFALLS HAD FADED FROM MY MEMORY, MY HOUSE OF CIRCUMSTANTIAL CARDS FELL APART!"
"FOR, THE BODY THAT HAD BEEN FLUNG EARTHWARD WAS THAT OF ROSS ARCHER HIMSELF... BROTHER BRIMSTONE!"

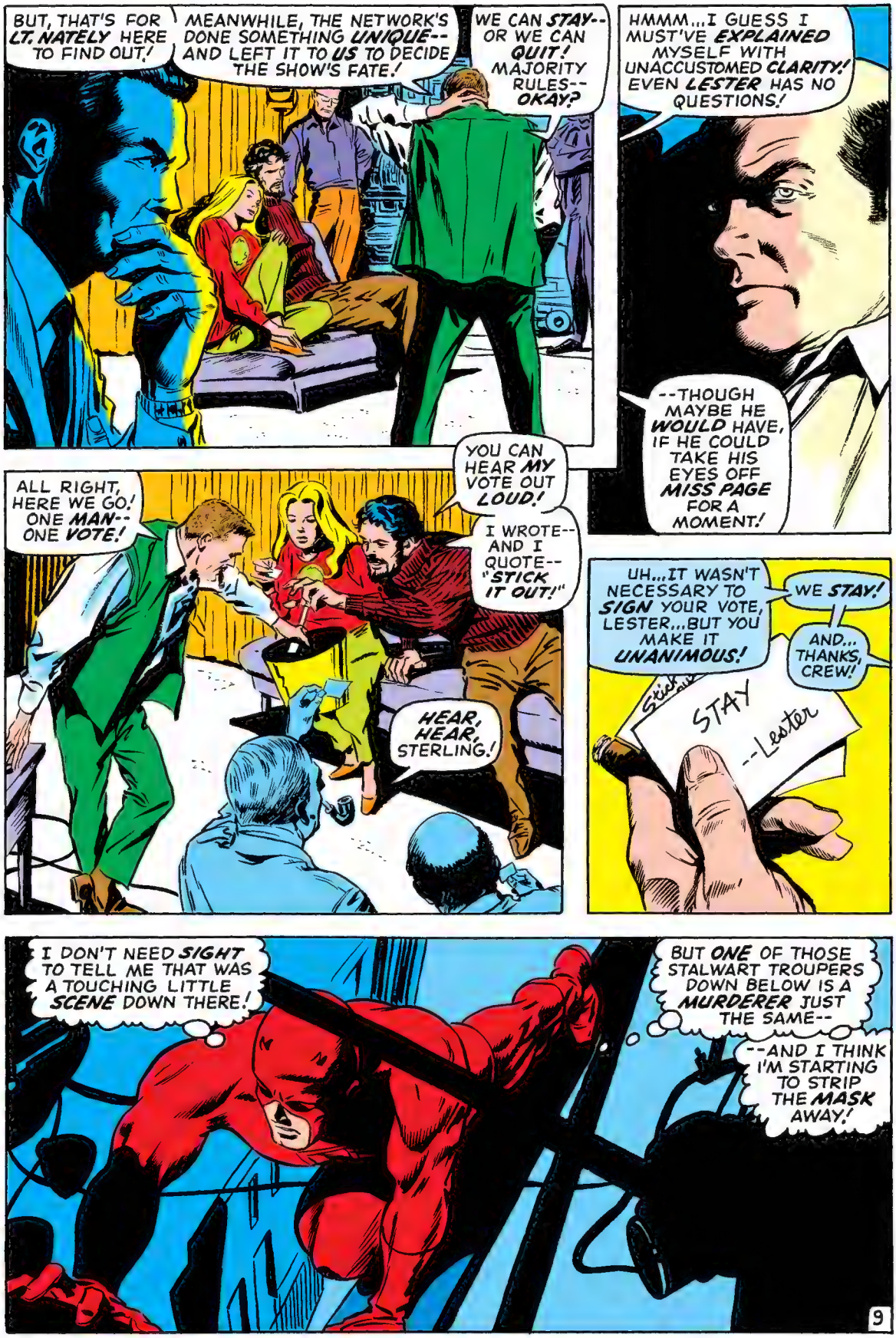
YET, IF IT WASN'T ARCHER BEHIND THAT BRIMSTONE MAKEUP, THEN WHO--AND WHY?
FROM WHAT KAREN'S TOLD ME, SEVERAL OF THE CREW MIGHT HAVE HAD A MOTIVE!
WAIT! THEY'RE PASSING BY HIS COFFIN NOW, ONE BY ONE...!
THAT'S BILL WHEELER'S HEARTBEAT I'VE FOCUSED ON... THE DIRECTOR OF "STRANGE SECRETS"!
LIKE EVERYBODY ELSE WHO READS "VARIETY", HE KNEW THE SHOW'S RATINGS HAD SLIPPED RECENTLY!
WAS ARCHER'S DEATH HIS MACABRE WAY OF RENEWING AUDIENCE INTEREST... AND KEEPING HIS OWN JOB?
VINCE STERLING! HE PLAYED GOOD GUY TO BRIMSTONE'S MORE INTERESTING VILLAIN!
I GUESS HE'LL GET TOP BILLING A BIT AHEAD OF SCHEDULE NOW!
ED LAWSON! THE WRITER-CREATOR OF THE SHOW...WELL-KNOWN FOR HIS ANTAGONISM AND BAITING OF ARCHER!
HE HAD A STAKE IN THE SHOW'S CONTINUATION, TOO...A BIG ONE!
DID HE DECIDE TO WRITE OUT BROTHER BRIMSTONE IN A DIFFERENT WAY THAN THE SPONSORS INTENDED?
4

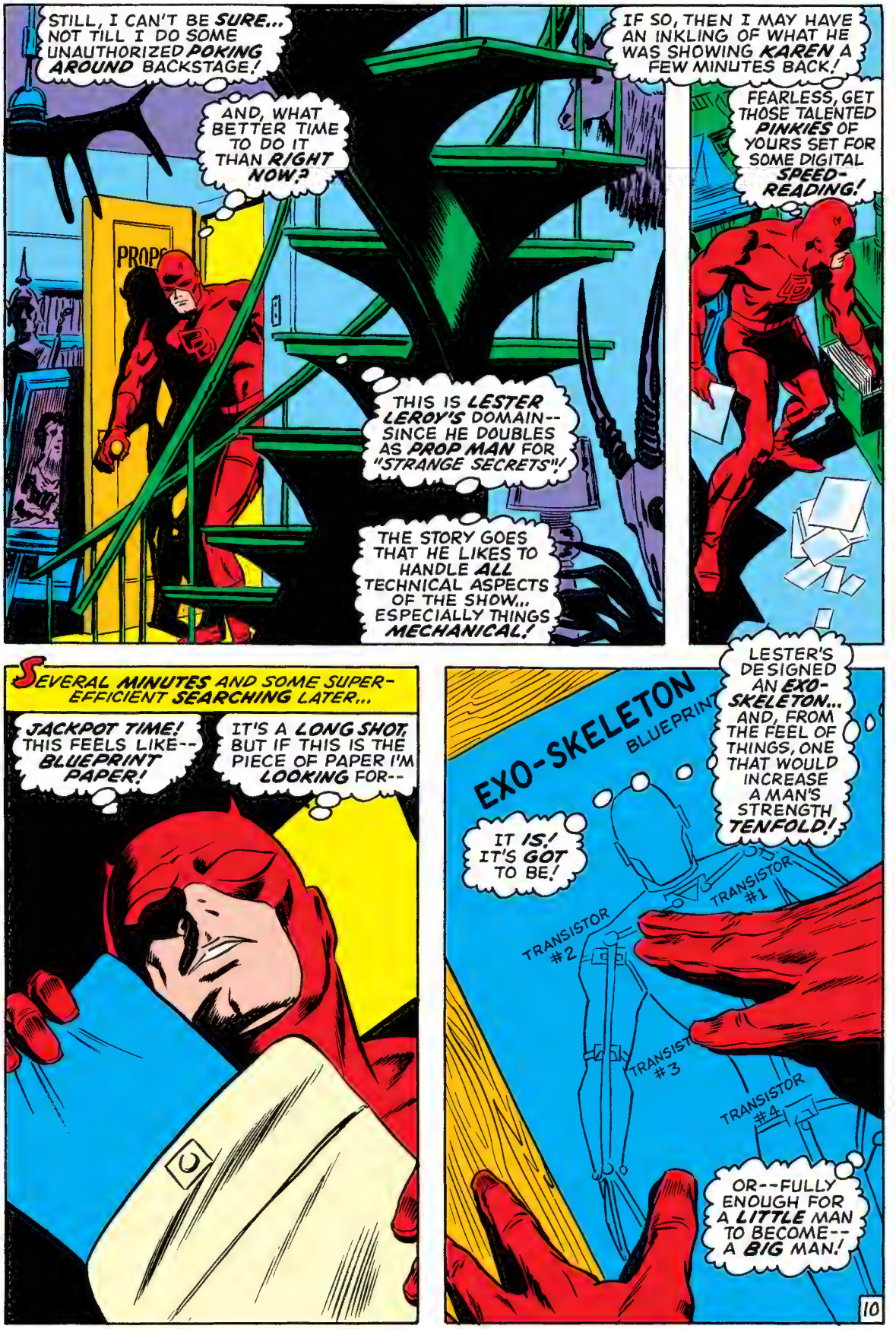
LESTER LEROY... THE SHOW'S TALENTED BUT TIMID SPECIAL-EFFECTS MAN!
THE SAME JOB MOTIVE AS THE OTHERS, BUT HE HARDLY SEEMS THE TYPE! STILL...
MAYBE I COULD LEARN MORE FROM THEIR HEARTBEATS IF I COULD EDGE IN CLOSER!
BUT, LT. NATELY, THE L.A. POLICE DEPARTMENT'S OWN ROADBLOCK, HAS MADE THE SCENE...
AND HE'S MADE IT CLEAR HE DOESN'T WELCOME OUTSIDE HELP ON THIS CASE!
WELL, GUESS THERE'S NOTHING MORE I'LL FIND OUT HERE!
I'LL FIND A CONVENIENT SUNSET TO FADE INTO, AND-- HUH?
HOLD 'ER RIGHT THERE, MASKED MAN!
I THOUGHT I SAW YOU SKULKING AROUND IN THE SHADOWS, DAREDEVIL!
LOOK, FELLA... MAYBE BACK EAST THE FUZZ GO INTO A SWOON EVERY TIME YOU POP UP TO GIVE 'EM A HAND...
BUT OUT HERE, YOU'RE JUST ANOTHER SOUTH-CALIFORNIA NUT IN LONG-JOHNS!
NOW MOVE IT, BEFORE I RUN YOU IN! GOT IT?
I READ YOU, OFFICER... LOUD AND CLEAR!
BUT MAYBE... JUST MAYBE... YOU'LL FEEL DIFFERENTLY BEFORE LONG!


DON'T TAKE IT SO PERSONALLY, DD! THE GUY'S JUST DOING HIS JOB!
MAYBE HE'S RIGHT! MAYBE I SHOULD--
FOOTSTEPS! THE SERVICE MUST BE OVER ALREADY!
TIME FOR MIXED-UP MATTHEW TO DO HIS VANISHING ACT!
THWIP!
HMMM... TIMES LIKE THIS, I'M ALMOST GLAD I'M BLIND-- AND DEPENDENT ON MY OTHER HYPER-DEVELOPED SENSES!
IF I COULD SEE KAREN ARM IN ARM WITH VINCE STERLING-- INSTEAD OF JUST HEAR THEIR MINGLED HEART-BEATS--
I'D PROBABLY TURN INTO A GREEN-EYED MONSTER-- AND I DON'T MEAN THE HULK!
IT WAS GREAT OF YOU TO COME TO THE FUNERAL, KAREN-- EVEN THOUGH YOU MET ROSS ARCHER ONLY THE DAY BEFORE HE DIED!
BUT, LIFE MUST GO ON--SO WHAT SAY WE SPLIT A STEAK BEFORE YOU GO HOME TO MEMORIZE TOMORROW'S PART?
YOU KNOW, MAYBE IT'S MY BREATH--BUT I'VE GOT THE DISTINCT IMPRESSION YOU HAVEN'T HEARD A WORD I'VE BEEN SAYING!
I-I'M SORRY, VINCE! I CAN'T HELP REMEMBERING HOW ARCHER PLAYED A DEMON WHO WALKED THE EARTH--
--AND HOW HE WAS MURDERED BY A HUMAN DEVIL--IN THAT VERY SAME GUISE!
I WONDER-- IF ANY OF US ARE SAFE-- UNTIL THAT MADMAN IS FOUND-- AND PUT AWAY--!?
6


BUT, IN THE COOL LIGHT OF THE NEXT MORNING, THE PHANTOMS ARE DISPELLED--AT LEAST FOR THE MOMENT--!
ISN'T IT GROOVY, KAREN, THE WAY MR. WINTHROP WROTE YOU INTO ANOTHER WEEK'S SHOOTING?
YES,..I KNOW I SHOULD ACT MORE CHEERFUL ABOUT IT!
BUT, I KEEP SEEING-- BROTHER BRIMSTONE--!
M-MISS PAGE?
OH, HELLO, LESTER! WHAT'S NEW IN THE TECHNICAL EFFECTS DEPARTMENT?
THAT'S--WHAT I WANTED TO SHOW YOU!
M-MAY I SPEAK TO YOU FOR A MINUTE-- ALONE?
SURE! BUT, WHY ALL THE SECRECY?
BECAUSE I DON'T WANT-- THEM TO SEE!
I DON'T TRUST THEM-- ANY OF THEM!
A BLUEPRINT? WHY--THIS LOOKS WONDERFUL!
DID YOU DESIGN IT, LESTER?
I S-SURE DID, MISS PAGE! BUT YOU'RE THE FIRST PERSON I'VE SHOWED THE BLUE-PRINT TO!
BUT--WHY ME, LESTER?
I MEAN--I'M CERTAIN THERE ARE OTHER CAST MEMBERS WHO COULD APPRECIATE THE TECHNICAL SIDE OF--
WELL, IT--IT'S BECAUSE YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE HERE WHO TREATS ME AS A PERSON, MISS PAGE!
TO EVERYONE ELSE, I'M JUST A ZERO--A GUY GOOD FOR SPOOKY EFFECTS, AND THAT'S IT!
THAT'S WHY I KEEP THIS BLUE-PRINT LOCKED IN MY FILE, WHERE--
UH OH! SHHH....!
BY THE SOUND OF THAT, LESTER, IT'S QUITE OBVIOUS THAT I'M BREAKING UP SOMETHING!
FOR WHICH I SUPPOSE I SHOULD APOLOGIZE--
7.

--BUT I DON'T THINK I SHALL!
WE HAVE SOME LINES TO REHEARSE TOGETHER, KAREN--OR HAD YOU FORGOTTEN?
OH--OF COURSE! WILL YOU EXCUSE ME, LESTER?
YEAH... SURE!
THEN, LET'S AWAY, SHALL WE, BEFORE--
BY THE WAY, LESTER--WHAT IS ON THAT PAPER YOU INSIST ON HIDING WHEN ANYONE LOOKS SIDEWAYS AT YOU?
J-JUST A LITTLE SOMETHING--BETWEEN MISS PAGE AND ME!
YOU WON'T TELL--WILL YOU, MISS PAGE?
OF COURSE NOT, LESTER! 'BYE!
UH OH! IT SOUNDS AS IF MR. WHEELER'S CALLING US ALL TOGETHER! I WONDER WHY--!?
...THERE'S A SAYING IN THIS BUSINESS: "THE SHOW MUST GO ON!"
BUT THIS TIME, IT DOESN'T--UNLESS YOU WANT IT TO!
IT'S NO SECRET THAT OUR RATINGS HAVE SLIPPED LATELY!
IN FACT, THAT'S WHY WE DECIDED TO WRITE OUT BROTHER BRIMSTONE IN THE FIRST PLACE--
--AND WOUND UP WITH A MURDER ON OUR HANDS!
NOW, THE BRASS UPSTAIRS KNOW THAT, WHEN WE START THE SHOW AGAIN, WE'LL HAVE AN INSTANT HIT ON OUR HANDS!
ARCHER'S MURDER MADE HEADLINES COAST TO COAST!
BUT HIS KILLER'S STILL AT LARGE--
PERHAPS--WITHIN THE VERY SOUND OF MY VOICE!
8

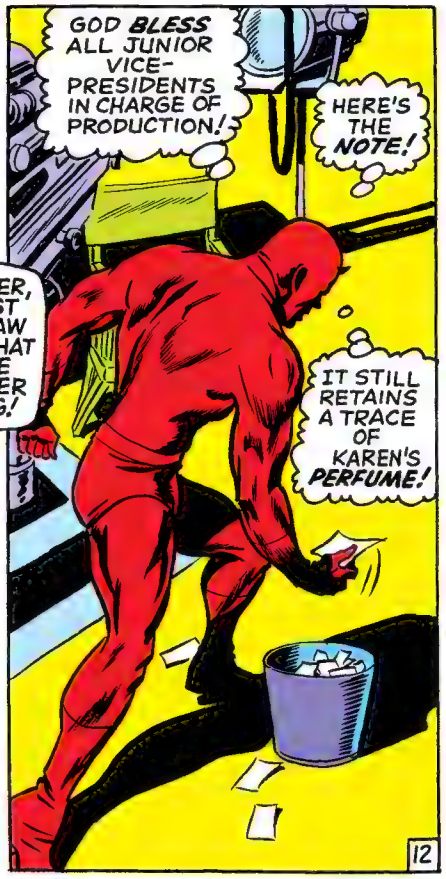

BUT, THAT'S FOR LT. NATELY HERE TO FIND OUT!
MEANWHILE, THE NETWORK'S DONE SOMETHING UNIQUE-- AND LEFT IT TO US TO DECIDE THE SHOW'S FATE!
WE CAN STAY-- OR WE CAN QUIT! MAJORITY RULES-- OKAY?
HMMM...I GUESS I MUST'VE EXPLAINED MYSELF WITH UNACCUSTOMED CLARITY! EVEN LESTER HAS NO QUESTIONS!
--THOUGH MAYBE HE WOULD HAVE, IF HE COULD TAKE HIS EYES OFF MISS PAGE FOR A MOMENT!
ALL RIGHT, HERE WE GO! ONE MAN-- ONE VOTE!
YOU CAN HEAR MY VOTE OUT LOUD!
I WROTE-- AND I QUOTE-- "STICK IT OUT!"
HEAR, HEAR, STERLING!
UH...IT WASN'T NECESSARY TO SIGN YOUR VOTE, LESTER...BUT YOU MAKE IT UNANIMOUS!
WE STAY!
AND... THANKS, CREW!
STAY
--Lester
I DON'T NEED SIGHT TO TELL ME THAT WAS A TOUCHING LITTLE SCENE DOWN THERE!
BUT ONE OF THOSE STALWART TROUPERS DOWN BELOW IS A MURDERER JUST THE SAME--
--AND I THINK I'M STARTING TO STRIP THE MASK AWAY!


STILL, I CAN'T BE SURE... NOT TILL I DO SOME UNAUTHORIZED POKING AROUND BACKSTAGE!
AND, WHAT BETTER TIME TO DO IT THAN RIGHT NOW?
PROPS
THIS IS LESTER LEROY'S DOMAIN-- SINCE HE DOUBLES AS PROP MAN FOR "STRANGE SECRETS"!
THE STORY GOES THAT HE LIKES TO HANDLE ALL TECHNICAL ASPECTS OF THE SHOW... ESPECIALLY THINGS MECHANICAL!
IF SO, THEN I MAY HAVE AN INKLING OF WHAT HE WAS SHOWING KAREN A FEW MINUTES BACK!
FEARLESS, GET THOSE TALENTED PINKIES OF YOURS SET FOR SOME DIGITAL SPEED-READING!
SEVERAL MINUTES AND SOME SUPER-EFFICIENT SEARCHING LATER...
JACKPOT TIME! THIS FEELS LIKE-- BLUEPRINT PAPER!
IT'S A LONG SHOT, BUT IF THIS IS THE PIECE OF PAPER I'M LOOKING FOR--
EXO-SKELETON BLUEPRINT
LESTER'S DESIGNED AN EXO-SKELETON... AND, FROM THE FEEL OF THINGS, ONE THAT WOULD INCREASE A MAN'S STRENGTH TENFOLD!
IT IS! IT'S GOT TO BE!
TRANSISTOR #1
TRANSISTOR #2
TRANSISTOR #3
TRANSISTOR #4
OR--FULLY ENOUGH FOR A LITTLE MAN TO BECOME-- A BIG MAN!
10

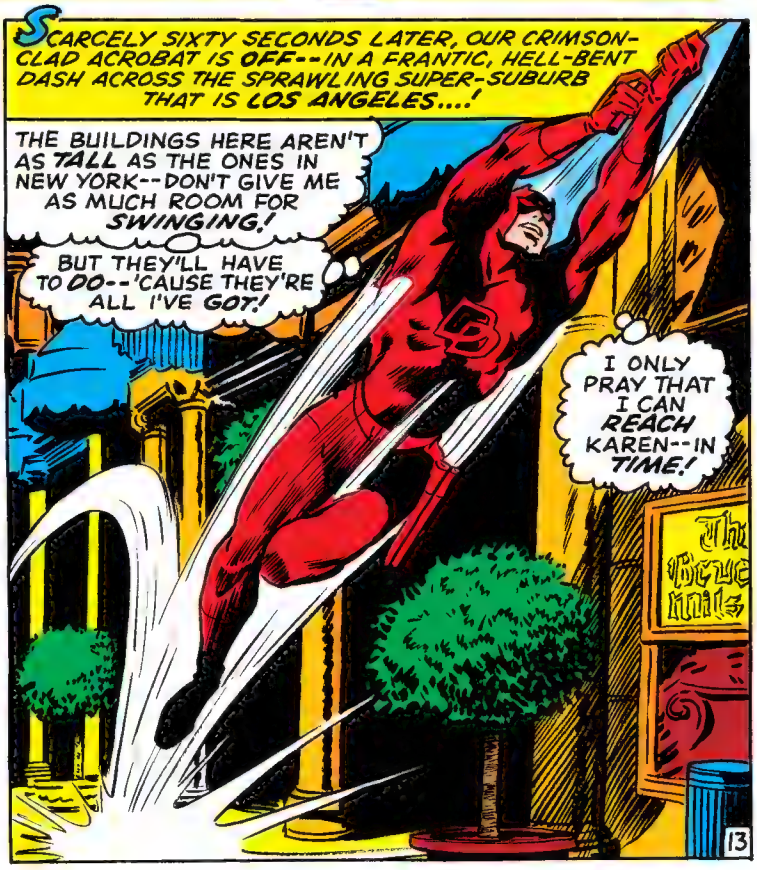
THIS EXTRA-THICK RUBBERIZED SUIT WOULD ANSWER A QUESTION OR TWO, AS WELL!
NAMELY, WHY DIDN'T I HEAR A HEARTBEAT WHEN I FOUGHT "BROTHER BRIMSTONE"?
NOW, MY NEXT STEP IS TO--
COOL IT, DD! SOMEBODY BEHIND YOU--!
JUST LIKE BEFORE--I CAN'T HEAR ANY HEARTBEAT!
BRIMSTONE!
IT MUST BE--
SURPRISED TO SEE ME, MASKED MAN?
WELL, YOU WON'T SEE ME--NOT EVER AGAIN!
AND YOU, DEAR FRIEND, ARE SCARCELY A GORILLA!
THIS BLOW WOULD STUN AN ELEPHANT--OR CRIPPLE A GORILLA!
-AAARHHH!-
WHOM
AND THEN--FOR A TIME--ALL IS DARK IN THE CANYONS OF MATT MURDOCK'S MIND--!
BUT, IF THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR CAN UNDERESTIMATE A DANGEROUS FOE--SO CAN THE MAN CALLED BRIMSTONE! THUS, SOME TIME LATER--
HUH? WHO IN BLAZES ARE YOU?
AND--WHAT WERE YOU DOING IN THE PROP ROOM?
ONE QUESTION--AT A TIME, FRIEND!
THEY CALL ME DAREDEVIL--AMONG OTHER THINGS!
AS FOR WHAT I WAS DOING IN THE PROP ROOM--I WAS LYING FLAT ON MY STUPID BACK!
11

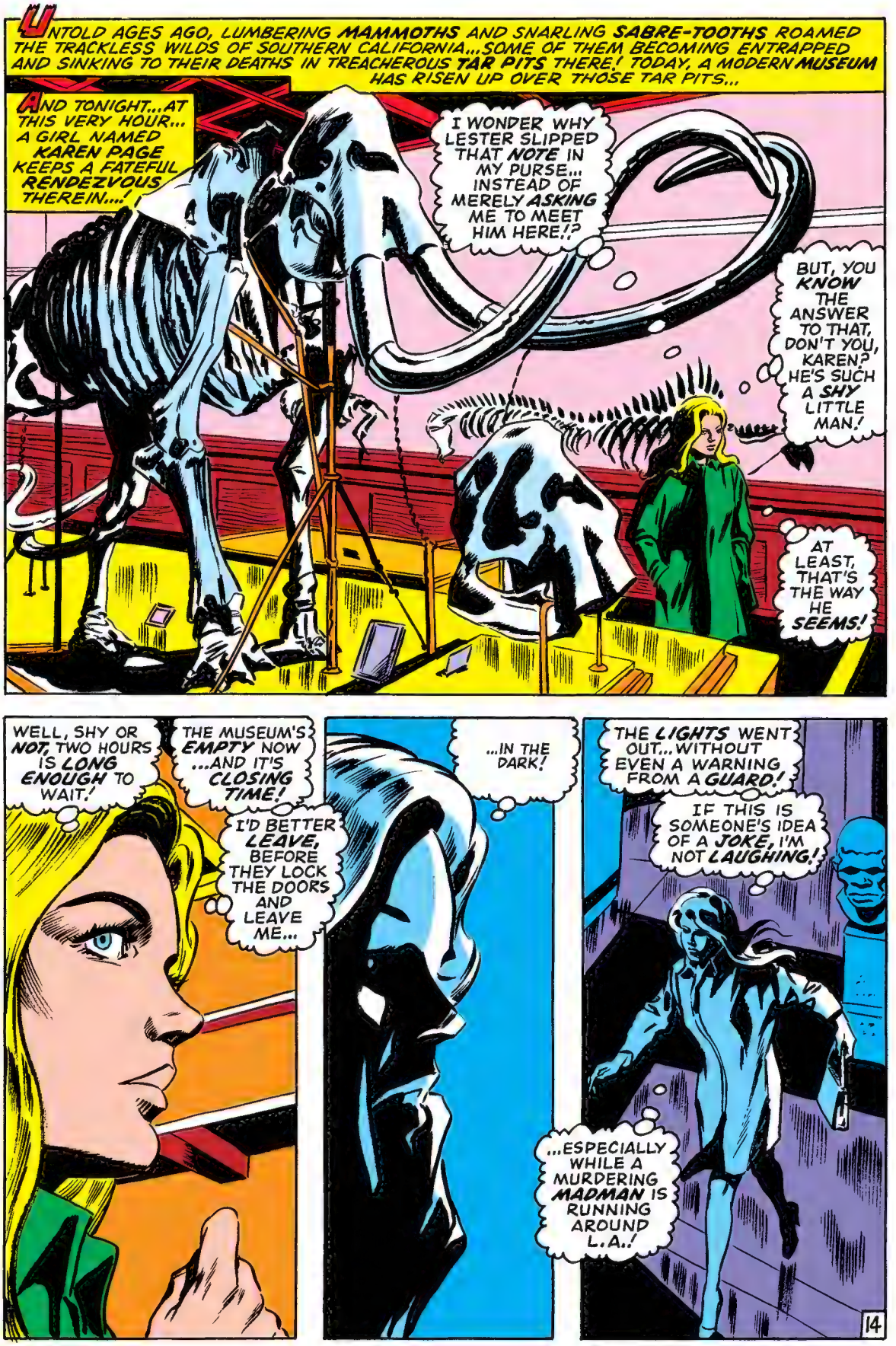
NO SENSE GETTING TESTY, FELLA! I JUST WORK HERE!
WHICH, COME TO THINK OF IT, IS MORE THAN YOU DO!
YOU MADE YOUR POINT, BUDDY!
BUT, YOU DON'T HAPPEN TO KNOW WHERE MISS PAGE WENT AFTER THE TAPING, DO YOU?
YOU MEAN THE NEW GIRL IN "STRANGE SECRETS"?

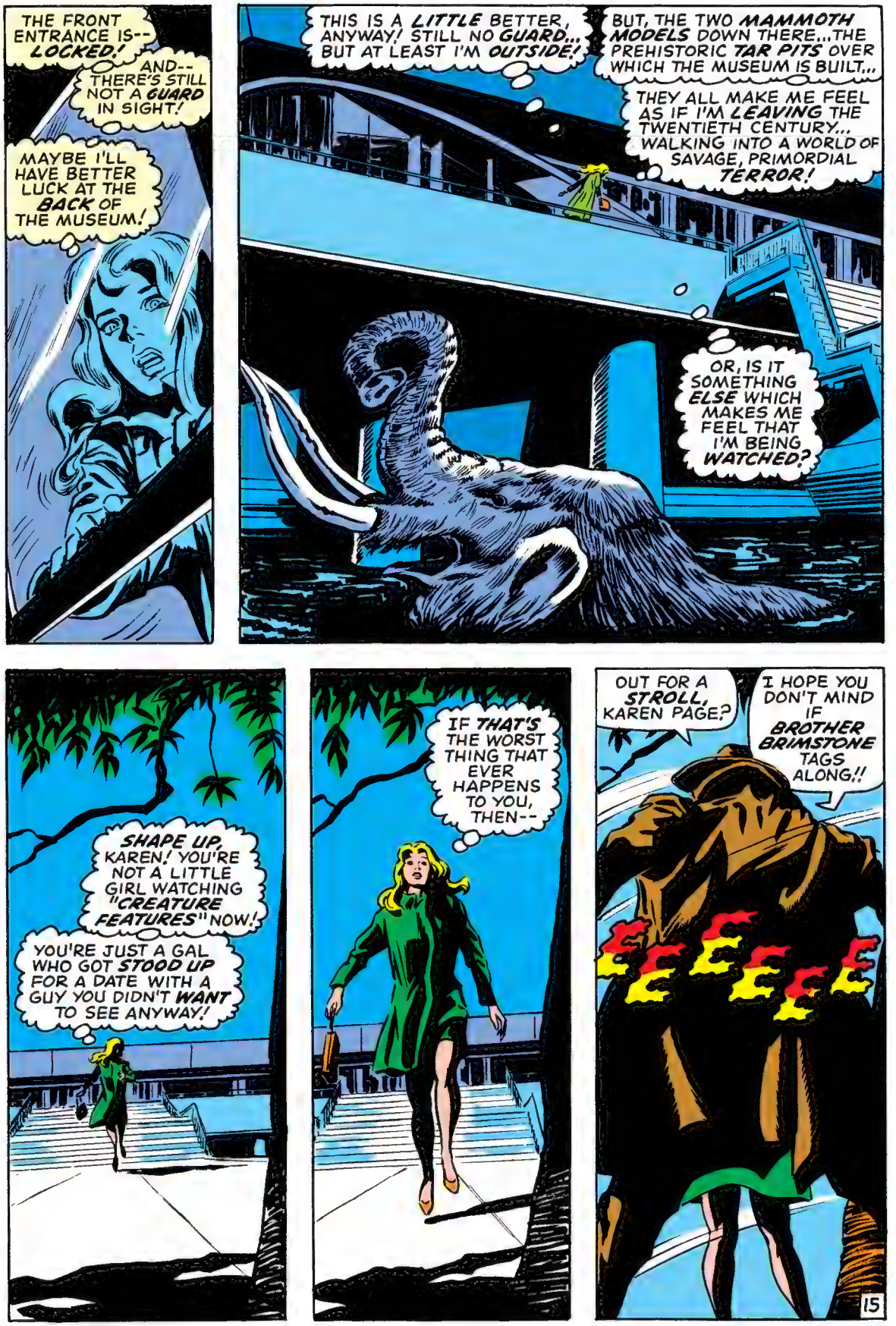
DON'T KNOW WHERE SHE WENT... BUT SHE LEFT AT LEAST A COUPLE OF HOURS AGO!
I REMEMBER, IT WAS JUST AFTER I SAW HER READ THAT NOTE SHE FOUND IN HER HANDBAG!
SHE TOSSED IT IN THAT BASKET, I THINK!

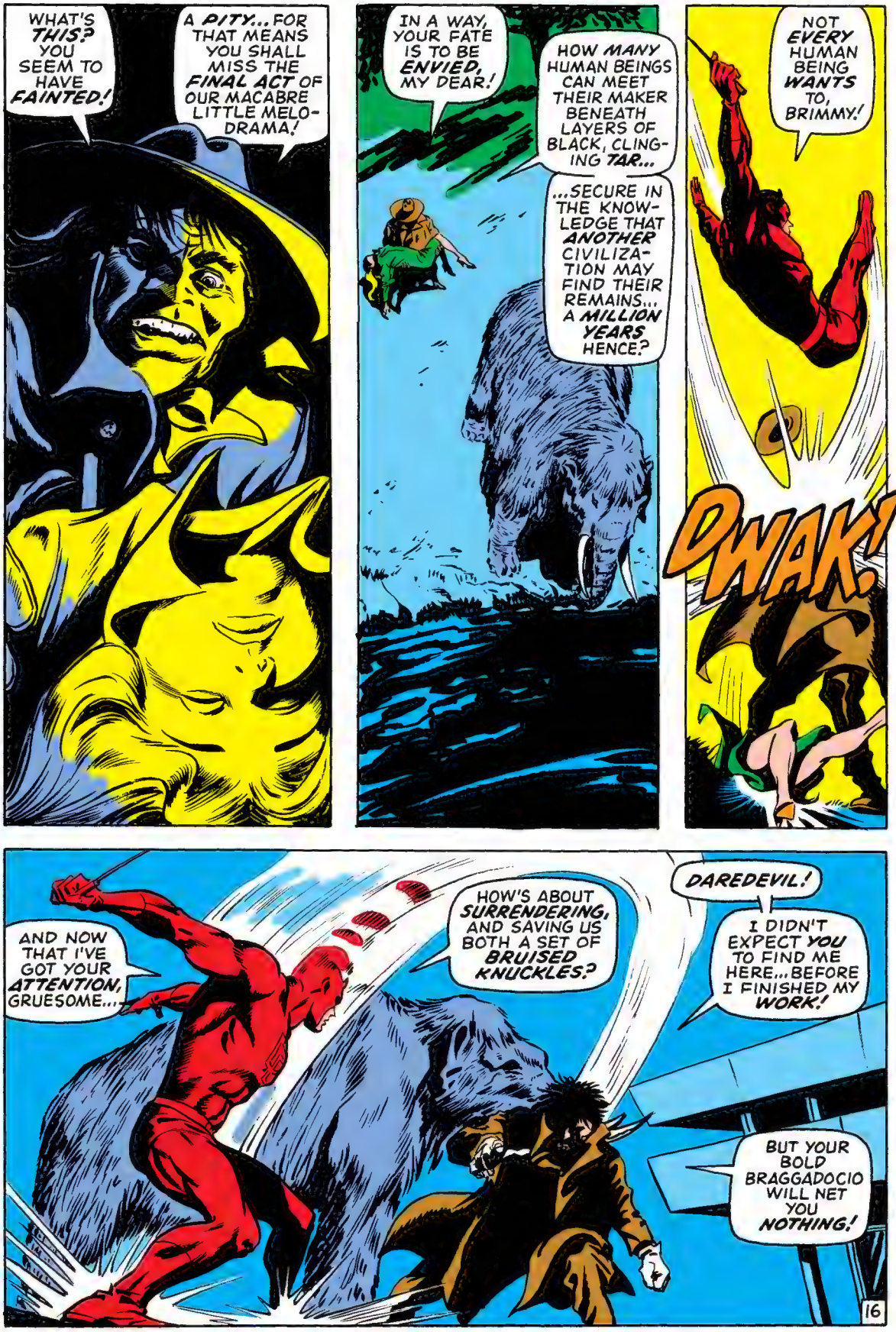

GOD BLESS ALL JUNIOR VICE-PRESIDENTS IN CHARGE OF PRODUCTION!
HERE'S THE NOTE!
IT STILL RETAINS A TRACE OF KAREN'S PERFUME!
12

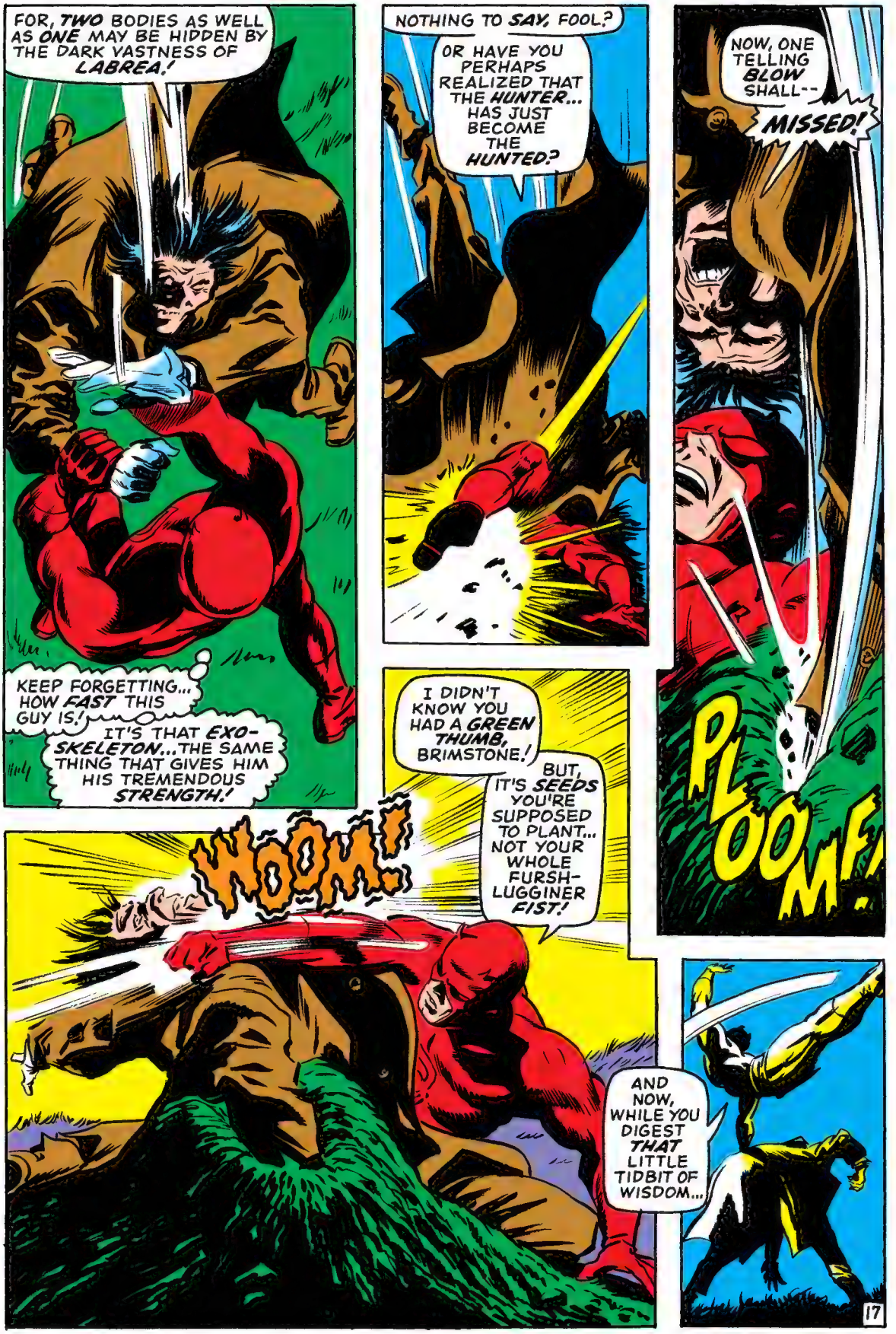
HOLY HANNAH! A NOTE--SIGNED BY LESTER LEROY--AND BEGGING KAREN TO MEET HIM AT--THE LABREA TAR PITS!
BUT--IF LEROY'S THE MURDERER--THEN KAREN'S OWN LIFE MAY BE IN DEADLY DANGER!
GOT TO GET THERE ON THE DOUBLE--AFTER ONE MORE LITTLE EXERCISE--!
Karen— Please meet me at closing time in the La Brea Tar Pits Museum! Very important! Lester

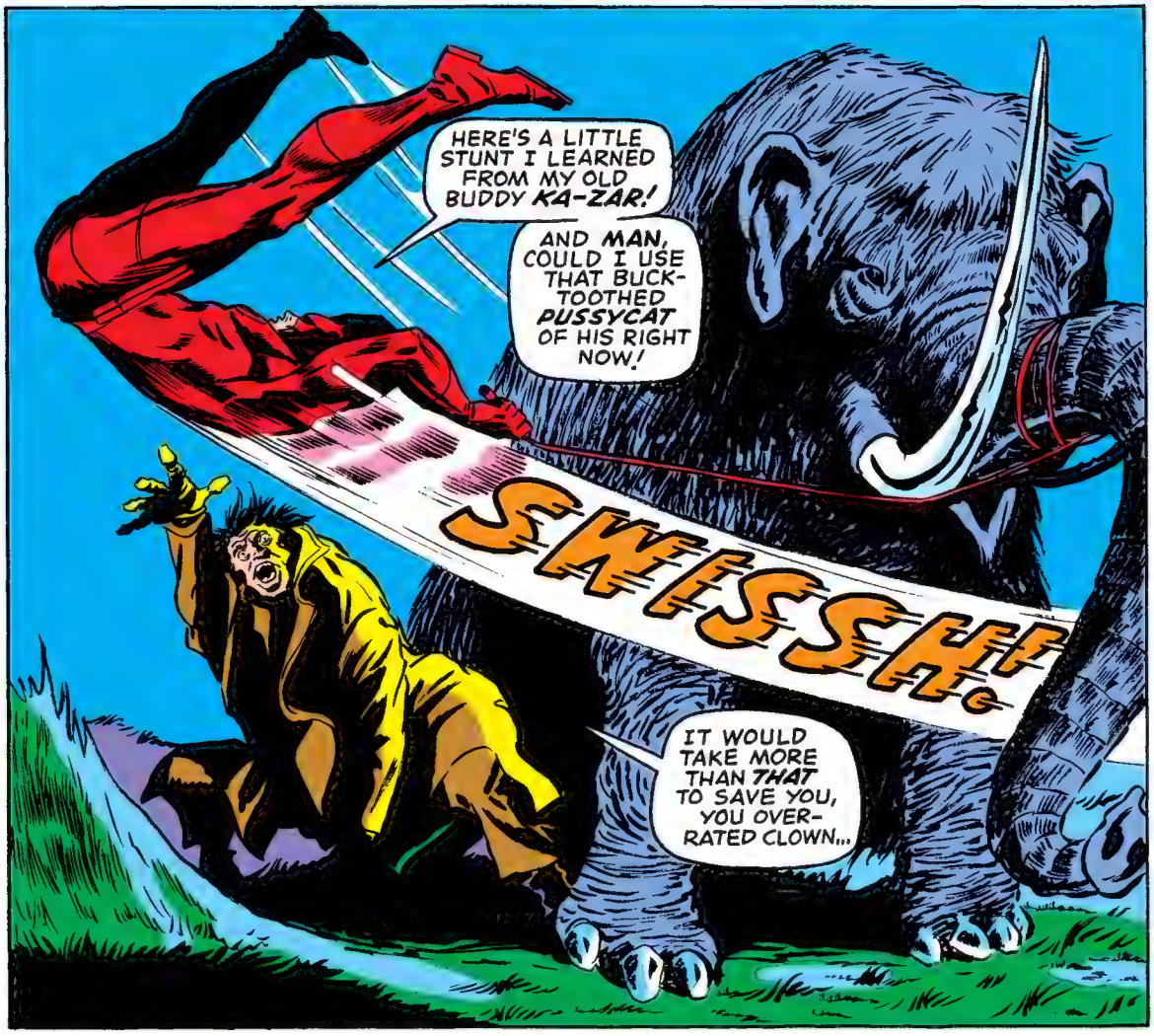

SCARCELY SIXTY SECONDS LATER, OUR CRIMSON-CLAD ACROBAT IS OFF--IN A FRANTIC, HELL-BENT DASH ACROSS THE SPRAWLING SUPER-SUBURB THAT IS LOS ANGELES....!
THE BUILDINGS HERE AREN'T AS TALL AS THE ONES IN NEW YORK--DON'T GIVE ME AS MUCH ROOM FOR SWINGING!
BUT THEY'LL HAVE TO DO--'CAUSE THEY'RE ALL I'VE GOT!
I ONLY PRAY THAT I CAN REACH KAREN--IN TIME!
13

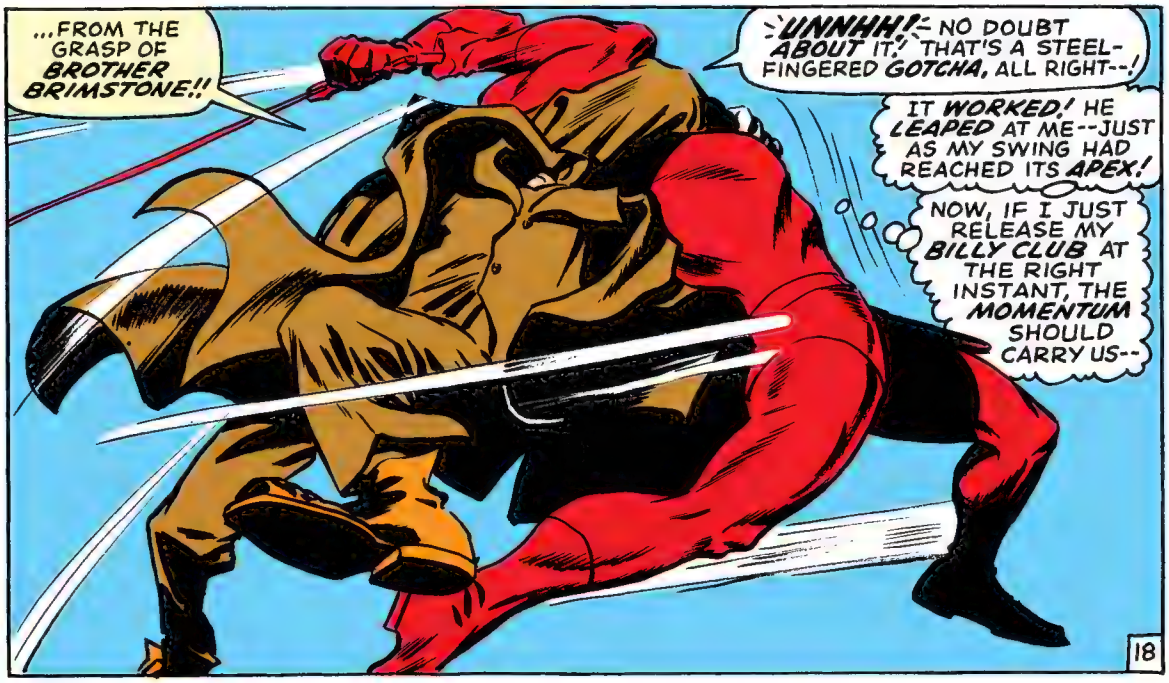

UNTOLD AGES AGO, LUMBERING MAMMOTHS AND SNARLING SABRE-TOOTHS ROAMED THE TRACKLESS WILDS OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA...SOME OF THEM BECOMING ENTRAPPED AND SINKING TO THEIR DEATHS IN TREACHEROUS TAR PITS THERE! TODAY, A MODERN MUSEUM HAS RISEN UP OVER THOSE TAR PITS...
AND TONIGHT...AT THIS VERY HOUR... A GIRL NAMED KAREN PAGE KEEPS A FATEFUL RENDEZVOUS THEREIN....!
I WONDER WHY LESTER SLIPPED THAT NOTE IN MY PURSE... INSTEAD OF MERELY ASKING ME TO MEET HIM HERE!?
BUT, YOU KNOW THE ANSWER TO THAT, DON'T YOU, KAREN? HE'S SUCH A SHY LITTLE MAN!
AT LEAST, THAT'S THE WAY HE SEEMS!
WELL, SHY OR NOT, TWO HOURS IS LONG ENOUGH TO WAIT!
THE MUSEUM'S EMPTY NOW ...AND IT'S CLOSING TIME!
I'D BETTER LEAVE, BEFORE THEY LOCK THE DOORS AND LEAVE ME...
...IN THE DARK!
THE LIGHTS WENT OUT...WITHOUT EVEN A WARNING FROM A GUARD!
IF THIS IS SOMEONE'S IDEA OF A JOKE, I'M NOT LAUGHING!
...ESPECIALLY WHILE A MURDERING MADMAN IS RUNNING AROUND L.A.!
14

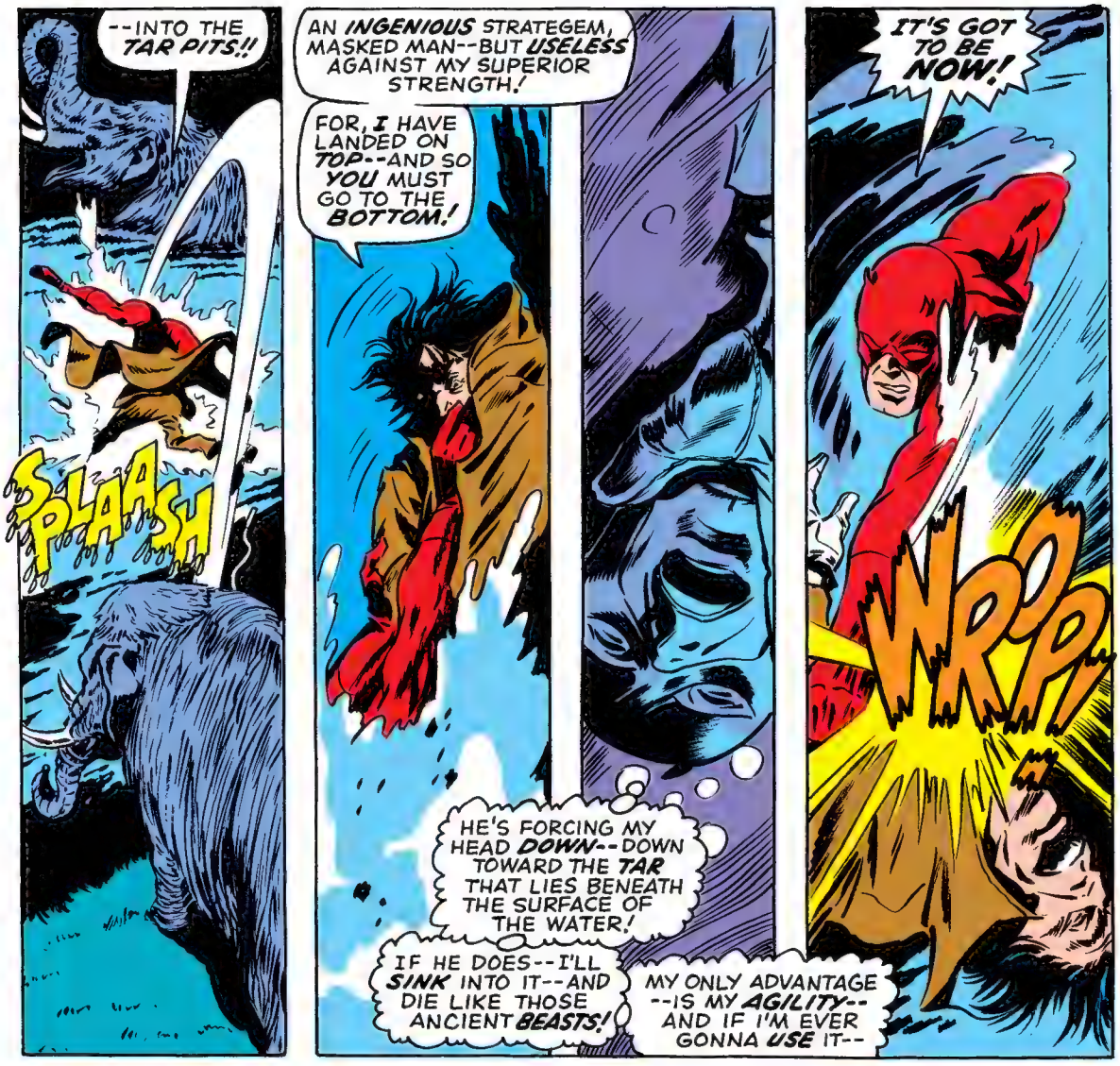

THE FRONT ENTRANCE IS-- LOCKED!
AND-- THERE'S STILL NOT A GUARD IN SIGHT!
MAYBE I'LL HAVE BETTER LUCK AT THE BACK OF THE MUSEUM!
THIS IS A LITTLE BETTER, ANYWAY! STILL NO GUARD... BUT AT LEAST I'M OUTSIDE!
BUT, THE TWO MAMMOTH MODELS DOWN THERE...THE PREHISTORIC TAR PITS OVER WHICH THE MUSEUM IS BUILT...
THEY ALL MAKE ME FEEL AS IF I'M LEAVING THE TWENTIETH CENTURY... WALKING INTO A WORLD OF SAVAGE, PRIMORDIAL TERROR!
OR, IS IT SOMETHING ELSE WHICH MAKES ME FEEL THAT I'M BEING WATCHED?
SHAPE UP, KAREN! YOU'RE NOT A LITTLE GIRL WATCHING "CREATURE FEATURES" NOW!
YOU'RE JUST A GAL WHO GOT STOOD UP FOR A DATE WITH A GUY YOU DIDN'T WANT TO SEE ANYWAY!
IF THAT'S THE WORST THING THAT EVER HAPPENS TO YOU, THEN--
OUT FOR A STROLL, KAREN PAGE?
I HOPE YOU DON'T MIND IF BROTHER BRIMSTONE TAGS ALONG!!
15

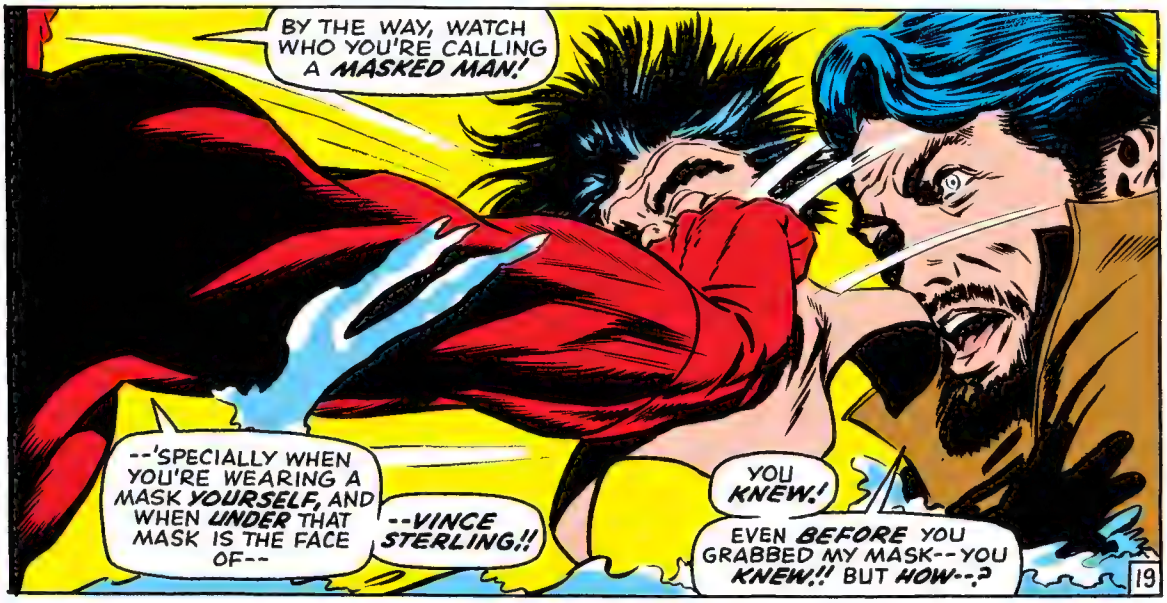

WHAT'S THIS? YOU SEEM TO HAVE FAINTED!
A PITY... FOR THAT MEANS YOU SHALL MISS THE FINAL ACT OF OUR MACABRE LITTLE MELO-DRAMA!
IN A WAY, YOUR FATE IS TO BE ENVIED, MY DEAR!
HOW MANY HUMAN BEINGS CAN MEET THEIR MAKER BENEATH LAYERS OF BLACK, CLING-ING TAR...
...SECURE IN THE KNOW-LEDGE THAT ANOTHER CIVILIZA-TION MAY FIND THEIR REMAINS... A MILLION YEARS HENCE?
NOT EVERY HUMAN BEING WANTS TO, BRIMMY!
DWAK!
AND NOW THAT I'VE GOT YOUR ATTENTION, GRUESOME...
HOW'S ABOUT SURRENDERING, AND SAVING US BOTH A SET OF BRUISED KNUCKLES?
DAREDEVIL!
I DIDN'T EXPECT YOU TO FIND ME HERE... BEFORE I FINISHED MY WORK!
BUT YOUR BOLD BRAGGADOCIO WILL NET YOU NOTHING!
16

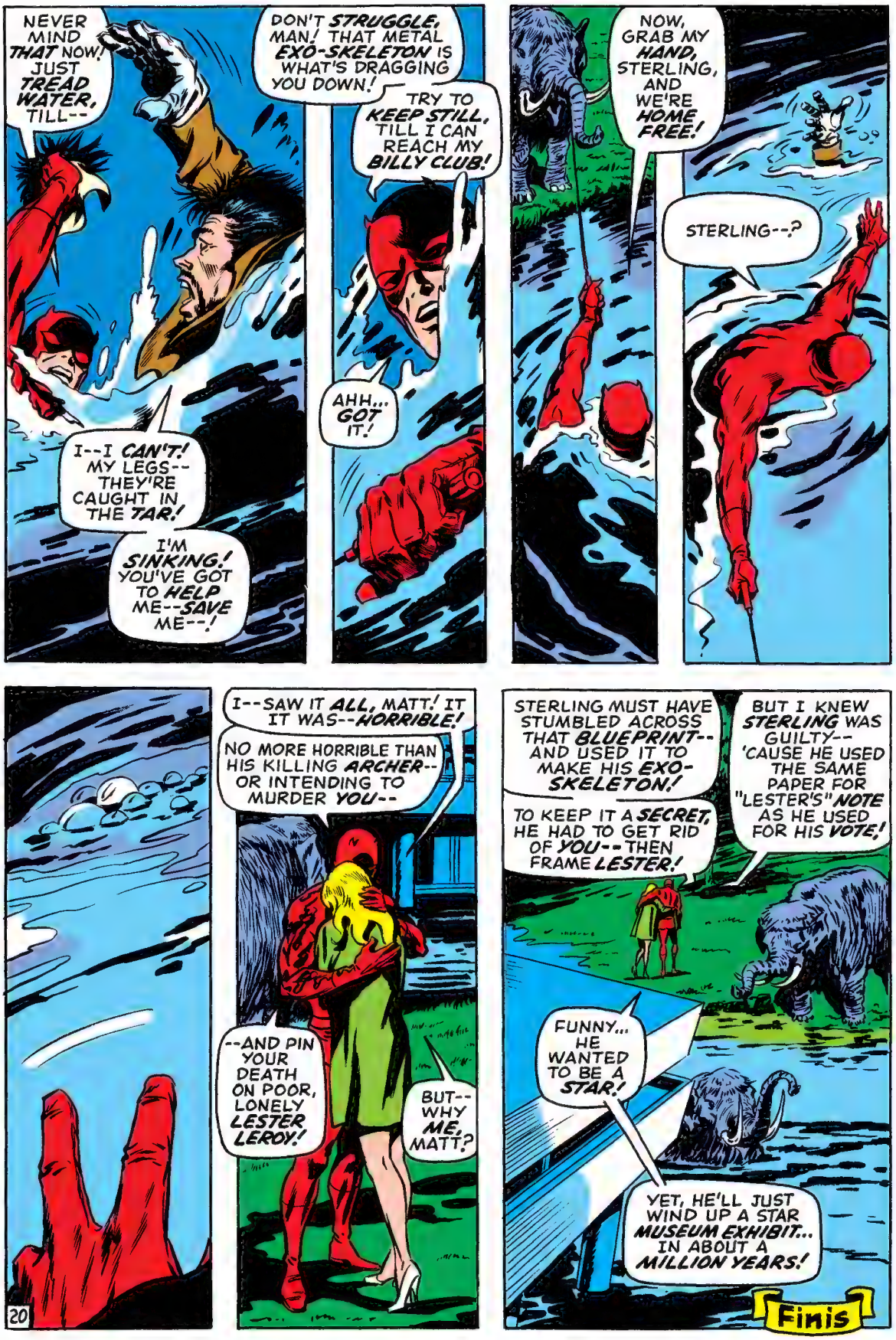

FOR, TWO BODIES AS WELL AS ONE MAY BE HIDDEN BY THE DARK VASTNESS OF LABREA!
KEEP FORGETTING... HOW FAST THIS GUY IS!
IT'S THAT EXO-SKELETON... THE SAME THING THAT GIVES HIM HIS TREMENDOUS STRENGTH!
NOTHING TO SAY, FOOL?
OR HAVE YOU PERHAPS REALIZED THAT THE HUNTER... HAS JUST BECOME THE HUNTED?
NOW, ONE TELLING BLOW SHALL--
MISSED!
PLOOM!
I DIDN'T KNOW YOU HAD A GREEN THUMB, BRIMSTONE!
BUT, IT'S SEEDS YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO PLANT... NOT YOUR WHOLE FURSH-LUGGINER FIST!
WOOM!
AND NOW, WHILE YOU DIGEST THAT LITTLE TIDBIT OF WISDOM...
17


HERE'S A LITTLE STUNT I LEARNED FROM MY OLD BUDDY KA-ZAR!
AND MAN, COULD I USE THAT BUCK-TOOTHED PUSSYCAT OF HIS RIGHT NOW!
SWISSH!
IT WOULD TAKE MORE THAN THAT TO SAVE YOU, YOU OVER-RATED CLOWN...


...FROM THE GRASP OF BROTHER BRIMSTONE!!
UNNHH! NO DOUBT ABOUT IT! THAT'S A STEEL-FINGERED GOTCHA, ALL RIGHT--!
IT WORKED! HE LEAPED AT ME--JUST AS MY SWING HAD REACHED ITS APEX!
NOW, IF I JUST RELEASE MY BILLY CLUB AT THE RIGHT INSTANT, THE MOMENTUM SHOULD CARRY US--

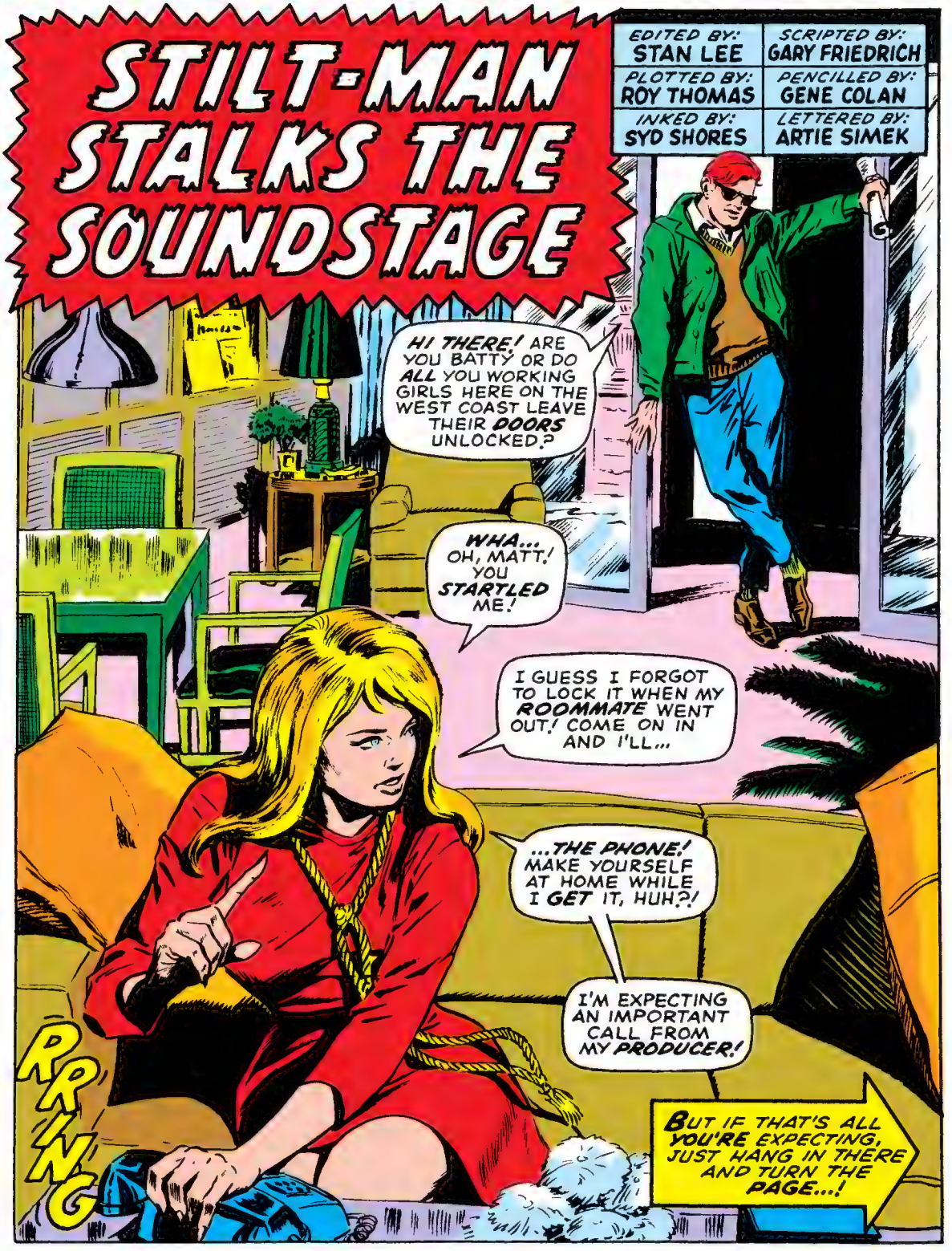

--INTO THE TAR PITS!!
SPLAAASH
AN INGENIOUS STRATEGEM, MASKED MAN--BUT USELESS AGAINST MY SUPERIOR STRENGTH!
FOR, I HAVE LANDED ON TOP--AND SO YOU MUST GO TO THE BOTTOM!
HE'S FORCING MY HEAD DOWN--DOWN TOWARD THE TAR THAT LIES BENEATH THE SURFACE OF THE WATER!
IF HE DOES--I'LL SINK INTO IT--AND DIE LIKE THOSE ANCIENT BEASTS!
MY ONLY ADVANTAGE --IS MY AGILITY-- AND IF I'M EVER GONNA USE IT--
IT'S GOT TO BE NOW!
WRPP


BY THE WAY, WATCH WHO YOU'RE CALLING A MASKED MAN!
--'SPECIALLY WHEN YOU'RE WEARING A MASK YOURSELF, AND WHEN UNDER THAT MASK IS THE FACE OF--
--VINCE STERLING!!
YOU KNEW!
EVEN BEFORE YOU GRABBED MY MASK--YOU KNEW!! BUT HOW--?


NEVER MIND THAT NOW! JUST TREAD WATER, TILL--
DON'T STRUGGLE, MAN! THAT METAL EXO-SKELETON IS WHAT'S DRAGGING YOU DOWN!
TRY TO KEEP STILL, TILL I CAN REACH MY BILLY CLUB!
AHH... GOT IT!
I--I CAN'T! MY LEGS--THEY'RE CAUGHT IN THE TAR!
I'M SINKING! YOU'VE GOT TO HELP ME--SAVE ME--!
NOW, GRAB MY HAND, STERLING, AND WE'RE HOME FREE!
STERLING--?
I--SAW IT ALL, MATT! IT IT WAS--HORRIBLE!
NO MORE HORRIBLE THAN HIS KILLING ARCHER--OR INTENDING TO MURDER YOU--
--AND PIN YOUR DEATH ON POOR, LONELY LESTER LEROY!
BUT--WHY ME, MATT?
STERLING MUST HAVE STUMBLED ACROSS THAT BLUEPRINT--AND USED IT TO MAKE HIS EXO-SKELETON!
TO KEEP IT A SECRET, HE HAD TO GET RID OF YOU--THEN FRAME LESTER!
BUT I KNEW STERLING WAS GUILTY--'CAUSE HE USED THE SAME PAPER FOR "LESTER'S" NOTE AS HE USED FOR HIS VOTE!
FUNNY... HE WANTED TO BE A STAR!
YET, HE'LL JUST WIND UP A STAR MUSEUM EXHIBIT... IN ABOUT A MILLION YEARS!
Finis
20

DARE-DEVIL
15¢
67
AUG
DAREDEVIL
THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR!
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
GET OFF THE STREETS! THE STILT-MAN'S BACK IN TOWN!!
MARVEL COMICS GROUP
ALL RIGHT, DD.. I FINISHED OFF YOUR BUDDY, THE STUNT-MASTER!
AND... YOU'RE NEXT!

DAREDEVIL, THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR!™


STILT-MAN STALKS THE SOUNDSTAGE
EDITED BY: STAN LEE
SCRIPTED BY: GARY FRIEDRICH
PLOTTED BY: ROY THOMAS
PENCILLED BY: GENE COLAN
INKED BY: SYD SHORES
LETTERED BY: ARTIE SIMEK
HI THERE! ARE YOU BATTY OR DO ALL YOU WORKING GIRLS HERE ON THE WEST COAST LEAVE THEIR DOORS UNLOCKED?
WHA... OH, MATT! YOU STARTLED ME!
I GUESS I FORGOT TO LOCK IT WHEN MY ROOMMATE WENT OUT! COME ON IN AND I'LL...
...THE PHONE! MAKE YOURSELF AT HOME WHILE I GET IT, HUH?!
I'M EXPECTING AN IMPORTANT CALL FROM MY PRODUCER!
RRING
BUT IF THAT'S ALL YOU'RE EXPECTING, JUST HANG IN THERE AND TURN THE PAGE...!

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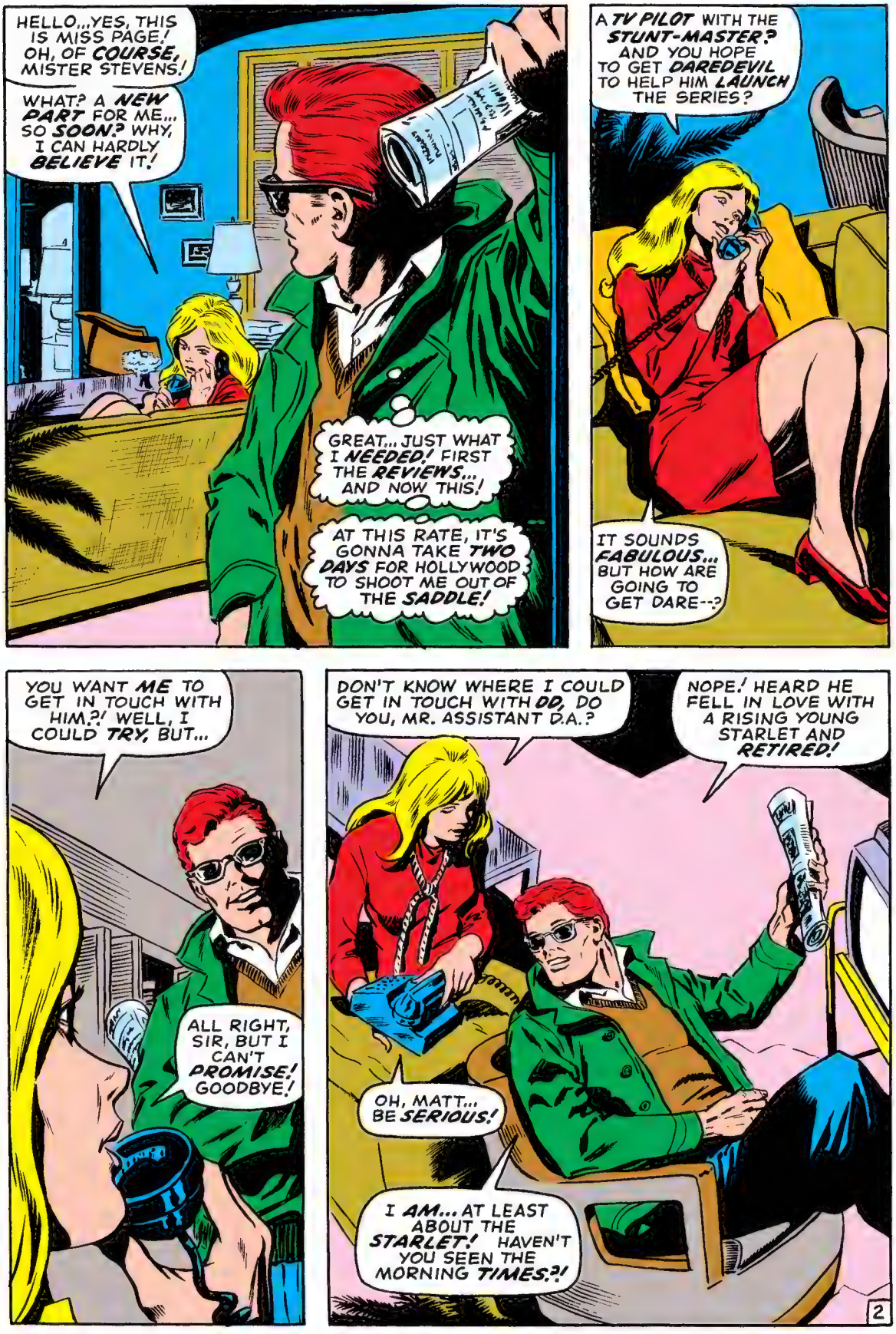
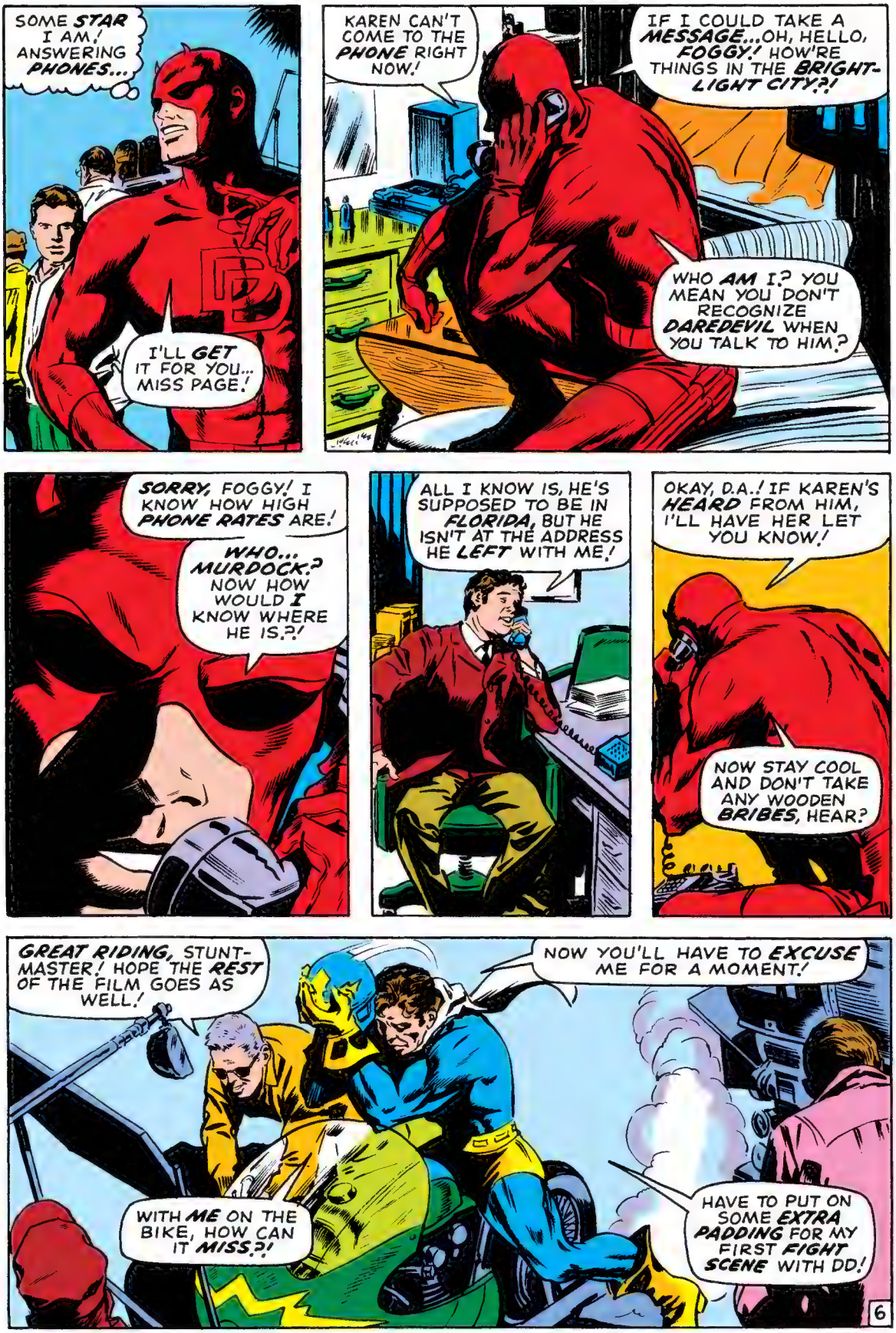
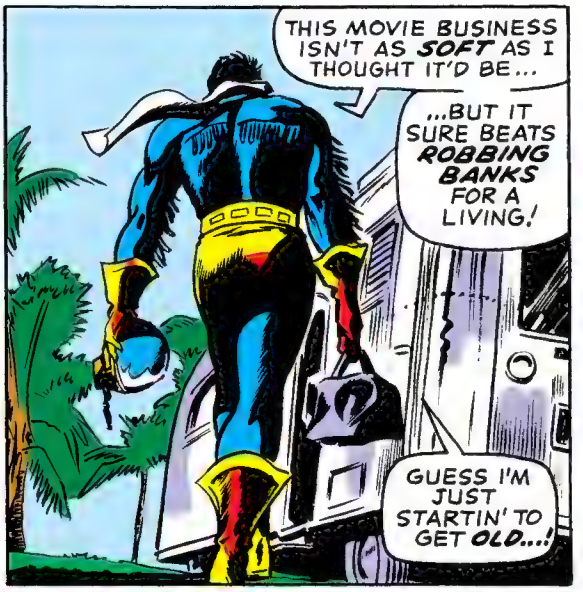

HELLO...YES, THIS IS MISS PAGE! OH, OF COURSE, MISTER STEVENS!
WHAT? A NEW PART FOR ME... SO SOON? WHY, I CAN HARDLY BELIEVE IT!
GREAT... JUST WHAT I NEEDED! FIRST THE REVIEWS... AND NOW THIS!
AT THIS RATE, IT'S GONNA TAKE TWO DAYS FOR HOLLYWOOD TO SHOOT ME OUT OF THE SADDLE!
A TV PILOT WITH THE STUNT-MASTER? AND YOU HOPE TO GET DAREDEVIL TO HELP HIM LAUNCH THE SERIES?
IT SOUNDS FABULOUS... BUT HOW ARE GOING TO GET DARE--?
YOU WANT ME TO GET IN TOUCH WITH HIM?! WELL, I COULD TRY, BUT...
ALL RIGHT, SIR, BUT I CAN'T PROMISE! GOODBYE!
DON'T KNOW WHERE I COULD GET IN TOUCH WITH DD, DO YOU, MR. ASSISTANT D.A.?
NOPE! HEARD HE FELL IN LOVE WITH A RISING YOUNG STARLET AND RETIRED!
OH, MATT... BE SERIOUS!
I AM... AT LEAST ABOUT THE STARLET! HAVEN'T YOU SEEN THE MORNING TIMES?!
2

JUST FEAST YOUR EYES ON THE REVIEWS THEY GAVE YOU FOR YOUR PREMIER TV PERFORMANCE!
LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE GOING TO BE TOO BIG FOR A POOR MAN'S PERRY MASON LIKE ME!
OH, MATT... THIS IS FANTASTIC! THE CRITICS LOVED ME!
YEAH, AND THEY'RE NOT THE ONLY ONES!
WHY, I BELIEVE YOU'RE JEALOUS... AND AREN'T I GLAD OF IT!
YOU KNOW I LOVE YOU... AND THAT I'D LOVE WORKING WITH YOU!
HOW ABOUT IT? WILL YOU DO THE PILOT AS DAREDEVIL?!
AMAZING WHAT ONE LITTLE KISS CAN GET OUT OF A SWASHBUCKLING SUPER-DOER!
OH, WELL, AT LEAST I'LL BE CLOSE TO KAREN...
...AND IF I REMEMBER CORRECTLY, THAT'S WHAT I CAME TO HOLLYWOOD FOR!
STEVENS PRODUCER
LET'S SEE NOW...
ACCORDING TO KAREN'S DIRECTION'S THAT SHOULD BE STEVEN'S OFFICE!
WHO'D EVER HAVE THOUGHT I'D WIND UP MAKING LIKE BURT LANCASTER...
...OR AT LEAST W.C. FIELDS! SWEET MOTHER OF PEARL, HERE I GO!
3

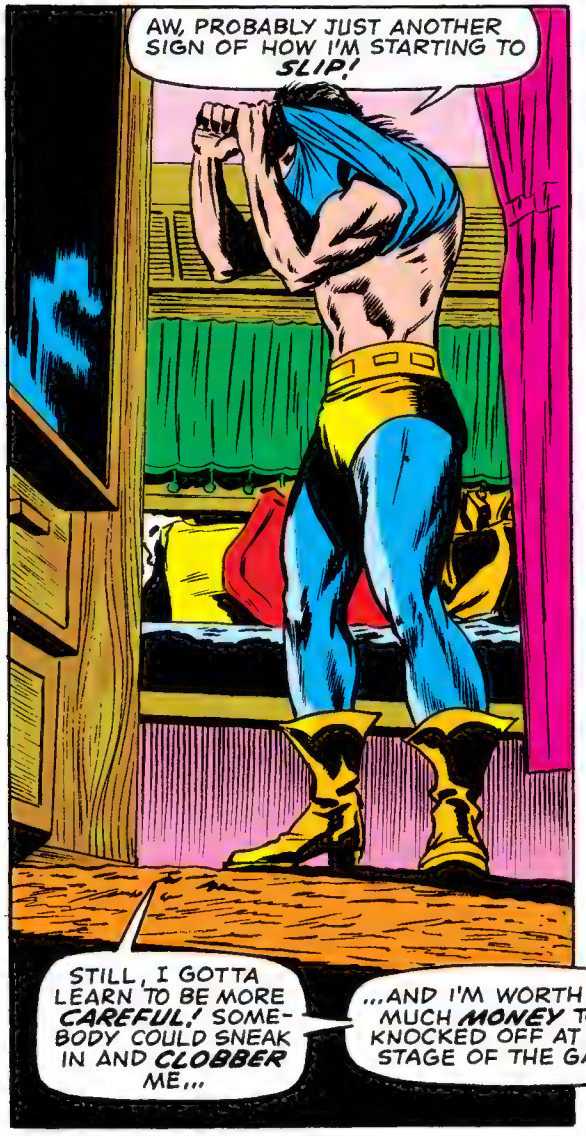
THE STAR IS HERE! SAVE THE APPLAUSE, PLEASE, AND JUST SHOW ME TO MY DRESSING ROOM!
DAREDEVIL!
YOU WERE EXPECTING MAYBE THE MIDNIGHT COWBOY?!
HEH, HEH! GOOD OF YOU TO COME! I BELIEVE YOU KNOW YOUR CO-STAR...STUNT-MASTER!
THAT WOULD BE AN UNDERSTATEMENT! HOW'RE TRICKS, FELLA?!
EXCELLENT! THEN WE CAN GET RIGHT DOWN TO BUSINESS! WE'RE PREPARED TO OFFER YOU A GOOD DEAL OF MONEY, AND...
NO SWEAT! US SUPERHEROES ARE BRAVE, CLEAN, REVERENT...
SAVE THE CODE OF ETHICS, SIR! WE'LL PAY YOU FIFTY THOUSAND!
YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT MY ETHICS! I'LL TAKE IT!
THAT SOUND...AN IRREGULAR HEARTBEAT...DOESN'T BELONG TO STEVENS OR STUNT-MASTER!
THUMP!
THUMP!
SEEMS TO BE COMING FROM...
BEHIND THAT CURTAIN!
DON'T MAKE A MOVE! SOMEONE'S BEHIND THE...
SOMEONE SNOOPING ON ME?! WHY, I'LL... OOOPPPS!
WELL, I'M AFRAID I'VE FRIGHTENED HIM AWAY-- IF ANYONE WAS OUTSIDE HERE!
AFTER ALL-- WE'RE ON THE FOURTH FLOOR! NOW, ABOUT THAT PILOT--!
4

...YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU'RE TO DO...YOU'RE SURE?! YOU RUN DOWN A HUNDRED YARDS AND THEN RACE STRAIGHT AT THE CAMERA!
THAT'S KIND'A TOUGH TO REMEMBER, BUT I'LL DO THE BEST I CAN!
SARCASM WON'T HELP, MISTER! NOW TAKE OFF!
LIKE A BIG BIRD, SONNY! JUST KEEP THAT FILM GRINDIN'!
QUIET ON THE SET! "STUNT-MASTER TV PILOT"-- SCENE ONE... TAKE ONE!
SO THIS IS WHAT IT'S LIKE?! I HAVE TO CONFESS I SEE THE APPEAL TO THIS SHOW-BIZ BIT!
AND I CAN CERTAINLY UNDERSTAND WHY KAREN IS SO FIRED-UP ABOUT IT!
WHO KNOWS... MAYBE BEFORE THIS THING'S OVER THE CAMERA BUG WILL BITE ME, TOO!
BUT I'LL KNOW MORE ABOUT THAT AFTER I'VE PLAYED A FEW SCENES!
CALL FOR YOU, MISS PAGE!
OH, I CAN'T TAKE IT RIGHT NOW! DAREDEVIL...
5

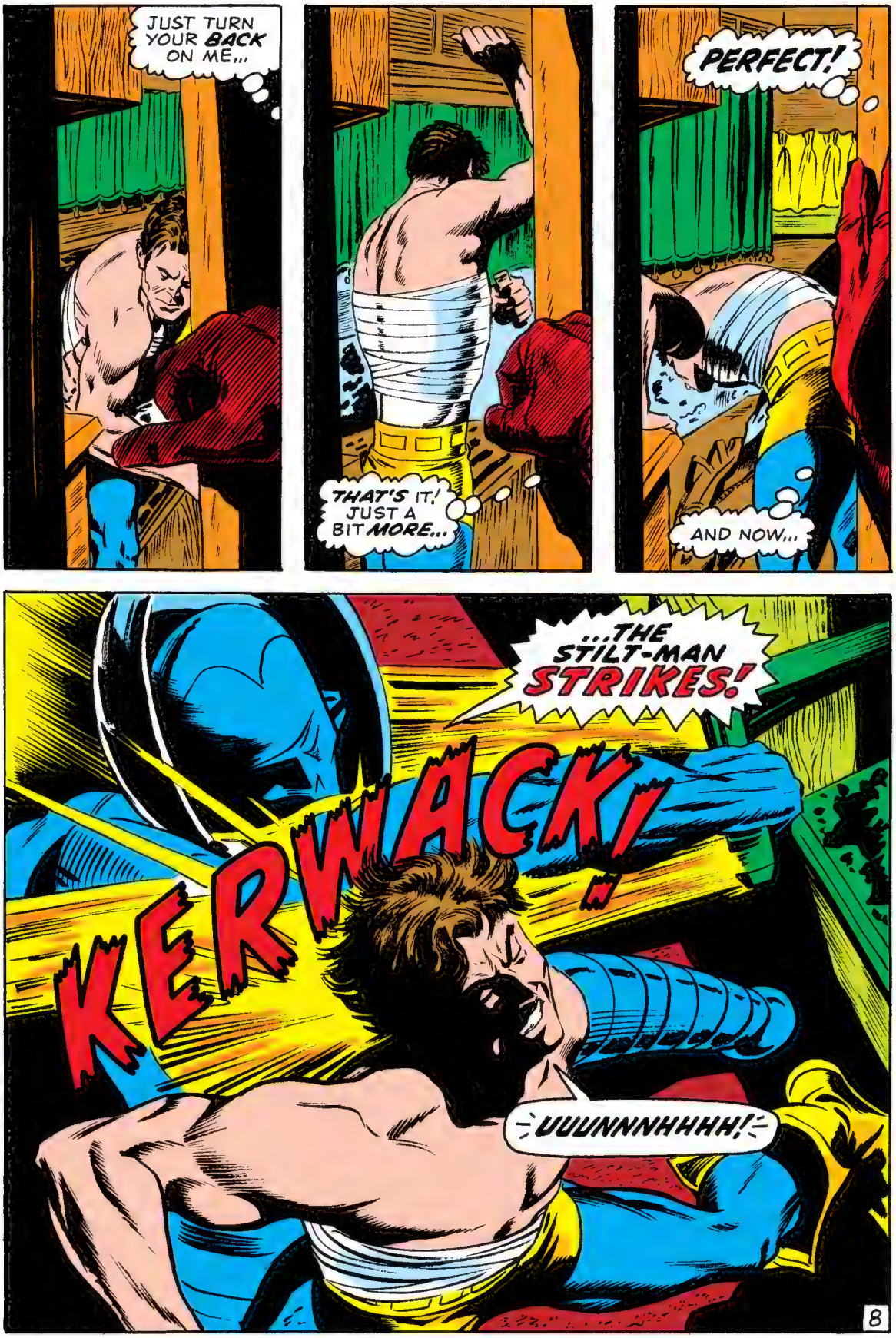

SOME STAR I AM! ANSWERING PHONES...
I'LL GET IT FOR YOU... MISS PAGE!
KAREN CAN'T COME TO THE PHONE RIGHT NOW!
IF I COULD TAKE A MESSAGE...OH, HELLO, FOGGY! HOW'RE THINGS IN THE BRIGHT-LIGHT CITY?!
WHO AM I? YOU MEAN YOU DON'T RECOGNIZE DAREDEVIL WHEN YOU TALK TO HIM?
SORRY, FOGGY! I KNOW HOW HIGH PHONE RATES ARE!
WHO... MURDOCK? NOW HOW WOULD I KNOW WHERE HE IS?!
ALL I KNOW IS, HE'S SUPPOSED TO BE IN FLORIDA, BUT HE ISN'T AT THE ADDRESS HE LEFT WITH ME!
OKAY, D.A.! IF KAREN'S HEARD FROM HIM, I'LL HAVE HER LET YOU KNOW!
NOW STAY COOL AND DON'T TAKE ANY WOODEN BRIBES, HEAR?
GREAT RIDING, STUNT-MASTER! HOPE THE REST OF THE FILM GOES AS WELL!
NOW YOU'LL HAVE TO EXCUSE ME FOR A MOMENT!
WITH ME ON THE BIKE, HOW CAN IT MISS?!
HAVE TO PUT ON SOME EXTRA PADDING FOR MY FIRST FIGHT SCENE WITH DD!

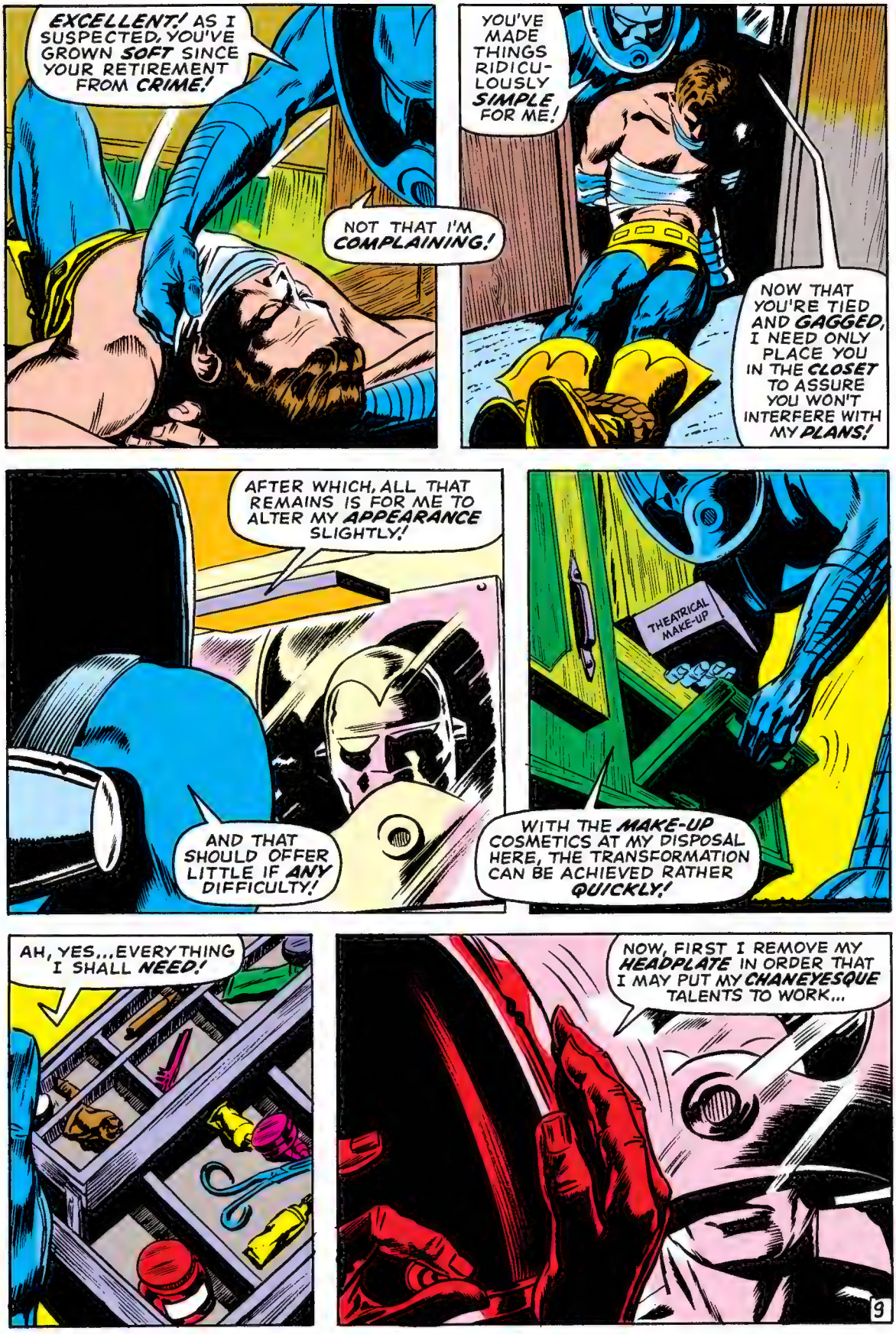

THIS MOVIE BUSINESS ISN'T AS SOFT AS I THOUGHT IT'D BE...
...BUT IT SURE BEATS ROBBING BANKS FOR A LIVING!
GUESS I'M JUST STARTIN' TO GET OLD...!

I'LL BE ABLE TO AFFORD IT AFTER A FEW PICTURES, THOUGH!
FUNNY THING ABOUT THE TRAILER DOOR! COULD'VE SWORN I LOCKED IT WHEN I LEFT!


AW, PROBABLY JUST ANOTHER SIGN OF HOW I'M STARTING TO SLIP!
STILL, I GOTTA LEARN TO BE MORE CAREFUL! SOMEBODY COULD SNEAK IN AND CLOBBER ME...
...AND I'M WORTH TOO MUCH MONEY TO GET KNOCKED OFF AT THIS STAGE OF THE GAME!

INDEED YOU ARE, FOOL, BUT MONEY IS OF LITTLE CONSEQUENCE TO...THE STILT-MAN!
ALL THAT MATTERS IS REVENGE ON DAREDEVIL... AND YOU SHALL HELP ME TO GET IT!
NOW!

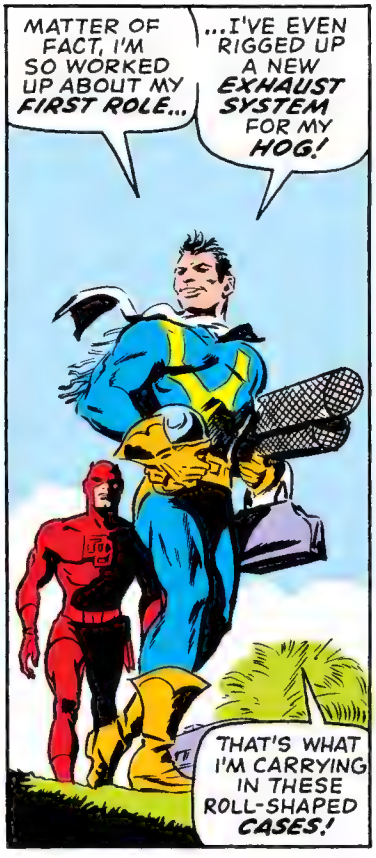

JUST TURN YOUR BACK ON ME...
THAT'S IT! JUST A BIT MORE...
PERFECT!
AND NOW...
...THE STILT-MAN STRIKES!
KERWACK!
UUUNNNHHHH!


EXCELLENT! AS I SUSPECTED, YOU'VE GROWN SOFT SINCE YOUR RETIREMENT FROM CRIME!
NOT THAT I'M COMPLAINING!
YOU'VE MADE THINGS RIDICULOUSLY SIMPLE FOR ME!
NOW THAT YOU'RE TIED AND GAGGED, I NEED ONLY PLACE YOU IN THE CLOSET TO ASSURE YOU WON'T INTERFERE WITH MY PLANS!
AFTER WHICH, ALL THAT REMAINS IS FOR ME TO ALTER MY APPEARANCE SLIGHTLY!
AND THAT SHOULD OFFER LITTLE IF ANY DIFFICULTY!
THEATRICAL MAKE-UP
WITH THE MAKE-UP COSMETICS AT MY DISPOSAL HERE, THE TRANSFORMATION CAN BE ACHIEVED RATHER QUICKLY!
AH, YES...EVERYTHING I SHALL NEED!
NOW, FIRST I REMOVE MY HEADPLATE IN ORDER THAT I MAY PUT MY CHANEYESQUE TALENTS TO WORK...

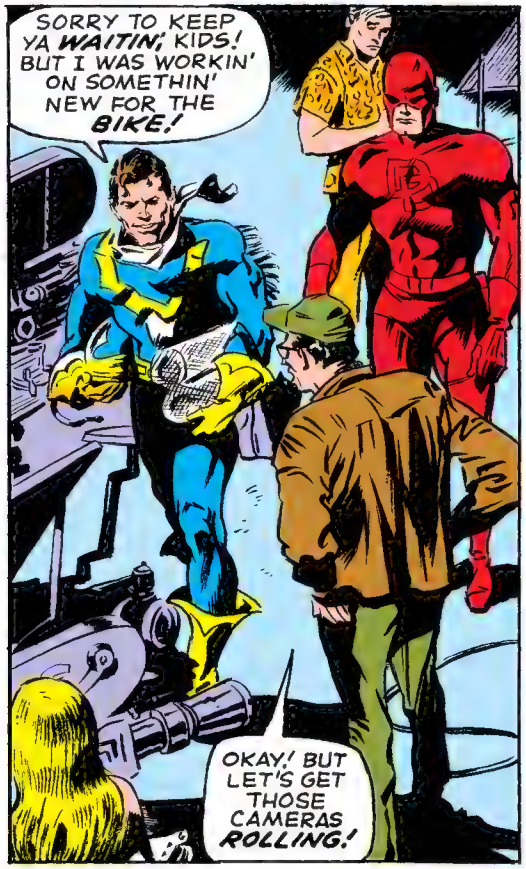
NEXT MY PROTECTIVE METALLIC COMES OFF...
...THEN...
WELL, NOT MUCH TO WORK WITH, BUT...I THINK IT WILL SUFFICE!
BY THE TIME I'M FINISHED, ONLY MY MAKE-UP MAN WILL KNOW FOR SURE!
I HATE TO SEEM TEMPERAMENTAL BUT WHAT SEEMS TO BE THE HOLD-UP?!
BEATS ME! STUNT-MASTER WAS DUE HERE TEN MINUTES AGO!
ACTORS! GIVE 'EM A FEW BUCKS AND THEY THINK THE WORLD OWES 'EM A LIVING!
IT WON'T BE LONG NOW! JUST A BIT MORE PUTTY HERE...
...AND A BIT MORE THERE BESIDE THE MOUTH!
NOW LET ME LOOK AT THE PICTURE OF STUNT-MASTER!
ALMOST, BUT I STILL NEED SLIGHTLY HEAVIER EYEBROWS!
ONCE THAT IS DONE...
10

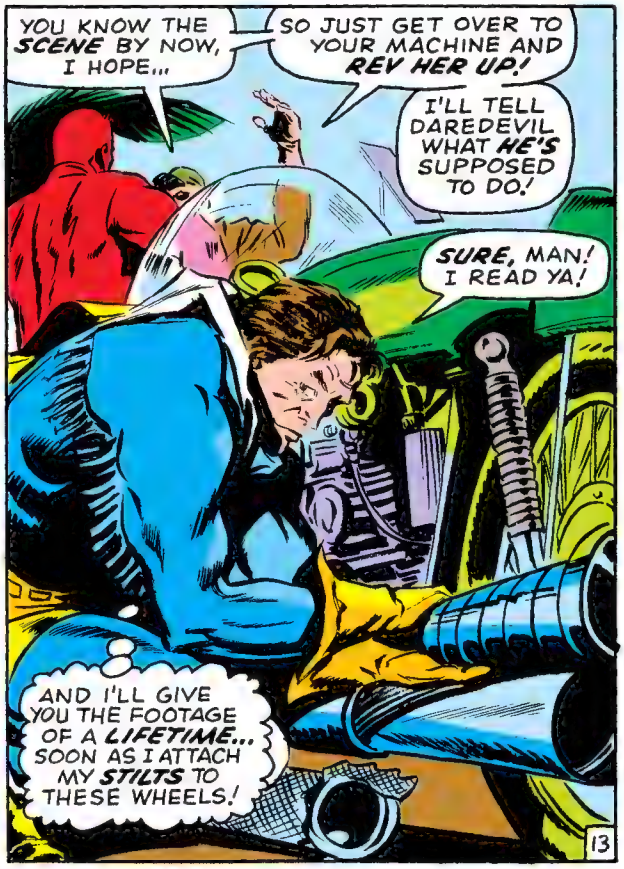
...I AM FINISHED!
A BEAUTIFUL JOB! THE COSMETICIANS UNION WOULD BE UNHAPPY IF THEY KNEW I'VE BEEN WORKING FOR LESS THAN SCALE!
I MUST CONFESS I LOOK MORE LIKE THE STUNT-MASTER THAN THE STUNT-MASTER HIMSELF!
MEMO
Tomorrow
HAVE TO TEMPORARILY DISMANTLE MY HYDRAULIC LEGS!
THEN I WILL BE READY TO PROCEED WITH MY LITTLE CHARADE!
I'LL PACK THEM UP AND TAKE THEM WITH ME, OF COURSE!
FOR I WILL NEED THEM BEFORE THE GAME IS ENDED!
THIS IS INSANE! DAREDEVIL, WILL YOU SEE IF YOU CAN FIND THAT CLOWN?
OKAY! YOU'RE THE DIRECTOR!
I CAN'T FIGURE IT! HE JUST ISN'T THE TYPE TO GET A SWELLED HEAD AND HOLD UP PRODUCTION... UNLESS MAYBE SOMETHING IS WRONG!
HIS COSTUME FITS ME PERFECTLY! THAT MEANS THE TIME HAS COME!
I'LL GRAB MY STILTS AND GO ONTO THE SET! THEN, WHEN THE CAMERAS START ROLLING, THEY WILL RECORD THE DEATH OF DAREDEVIL!
11.

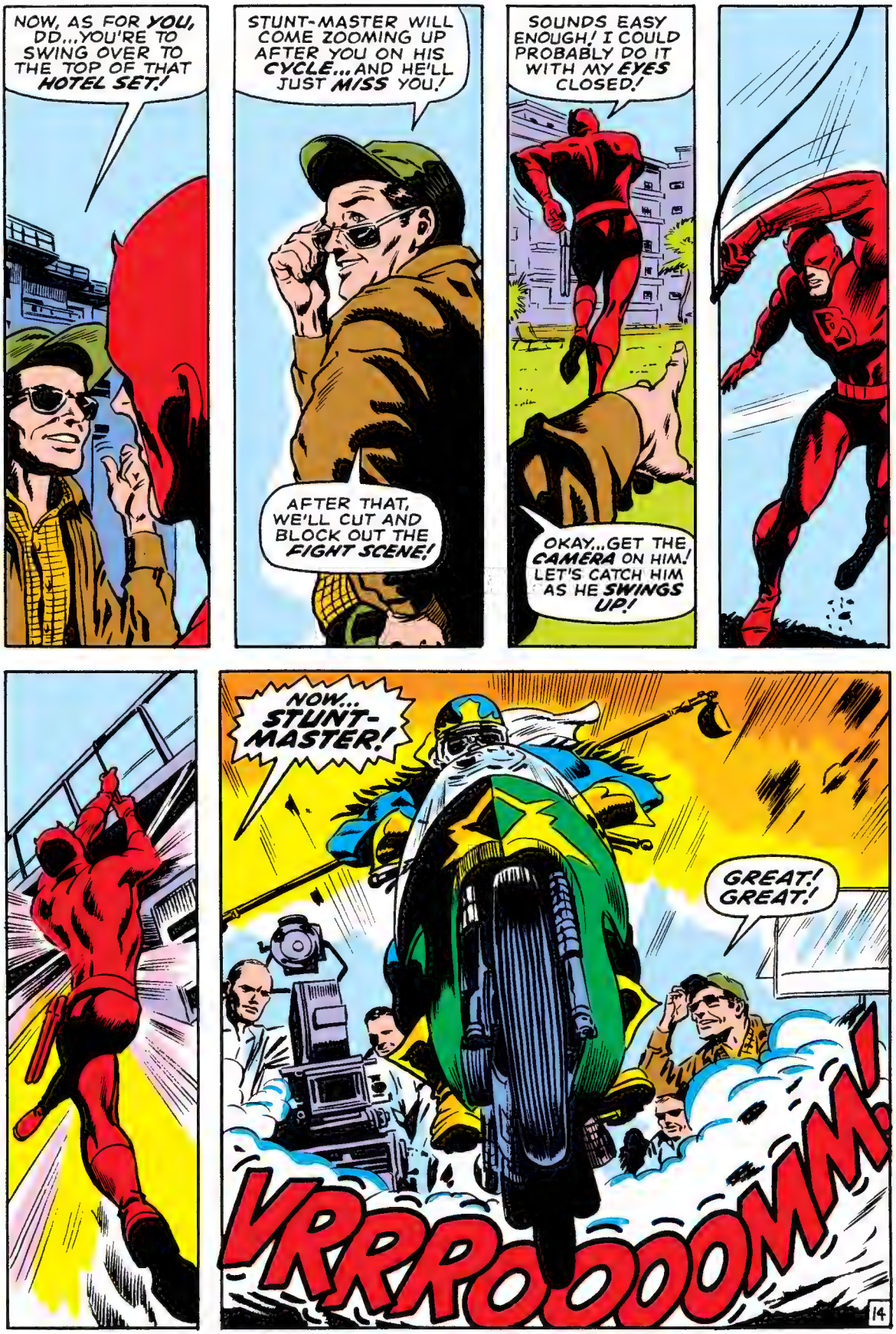
HEY! WE'D ABOUT DECIDED YOU WERE HOLDING OUT FOR MORE MONEY...
...OR THAT YOU'D ABSCONDED WITH A STARLET!
WHO, ME?! NOT A CHANCE!
JUST HAD TO FIX MY MAKE-UP! GOTTA LOOK GOOD ON CAMERA, YA KNOW!

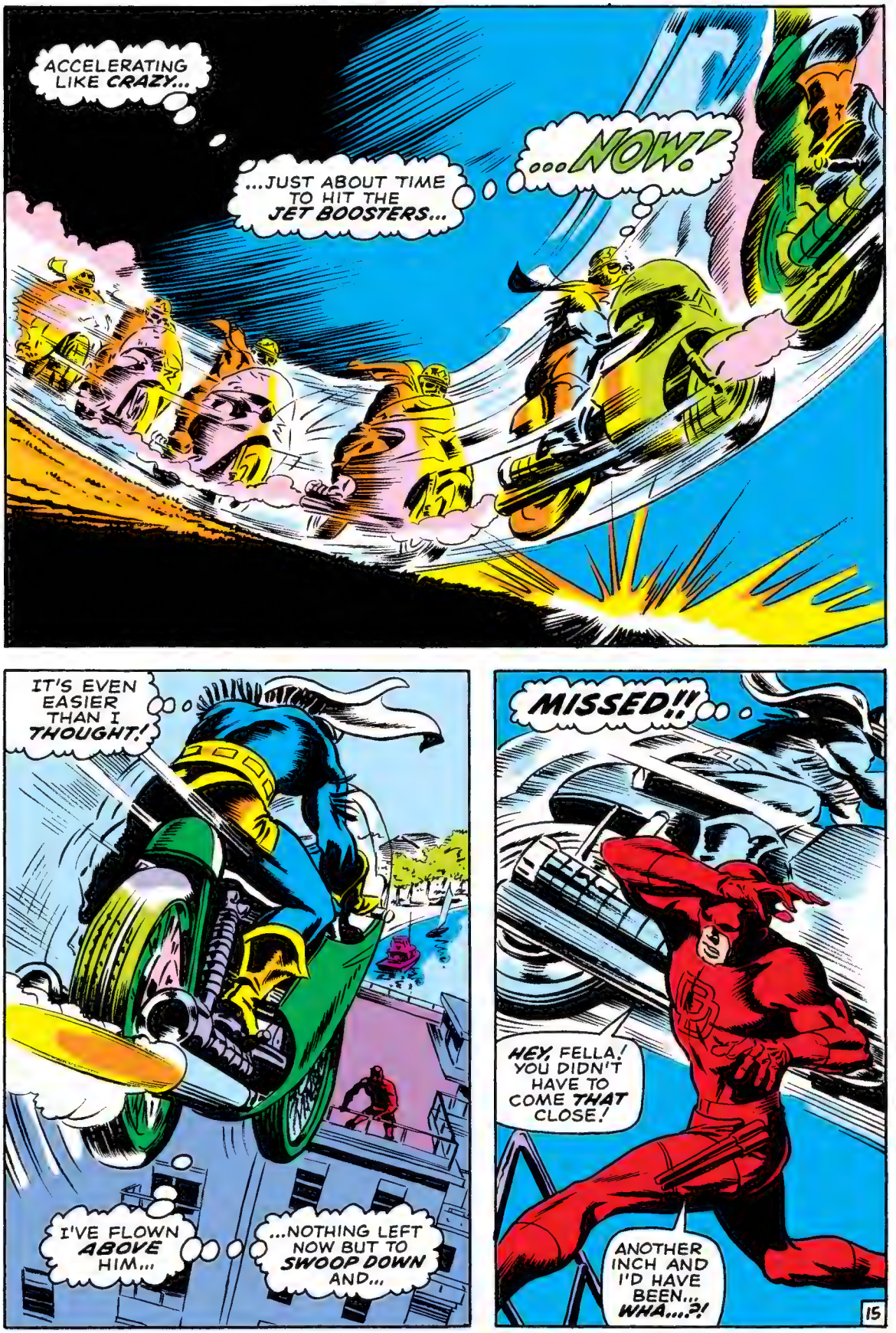

MATTER OF FACT, I'M SO WORKED UP ABOUT MY FIRST ROLE...
...I'VE EVEN RIGGED UP A NEW EXHAUST SYSTEM FOR MY HOG!
THAT'S WHAT I'M CARRYING IN THESE ROLL-SHAPED CASES!

FUNNY, I DIDN'T ASK WHAT HE WAS CARRYING! AND HIS HEARTBEAT--EVEN HIS VOICE SOUNDS DIFFERENT!
AH, MUST JUST BE GETTING JITTERY! NOT EVERY DAY I MAKE A FILM DEBUT!
12

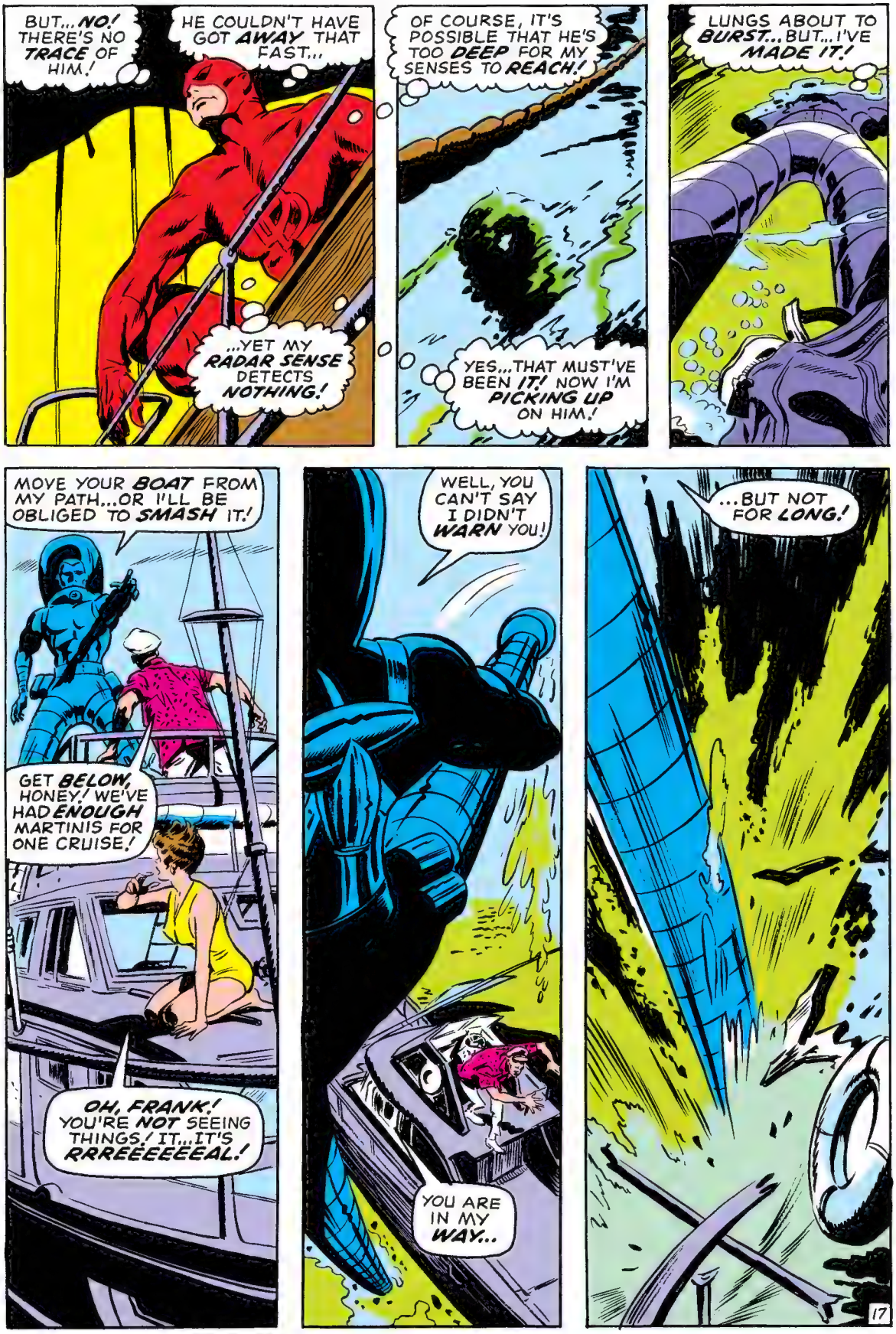

SORRY TO KEEP YA WAITIN', KIDS! BUT I WAS WORKIN' ON SOMETHIN' NEW FOR THE BIKE!
OKAY! BUT LET'S GET THOSE CAMERAS ROLLING!

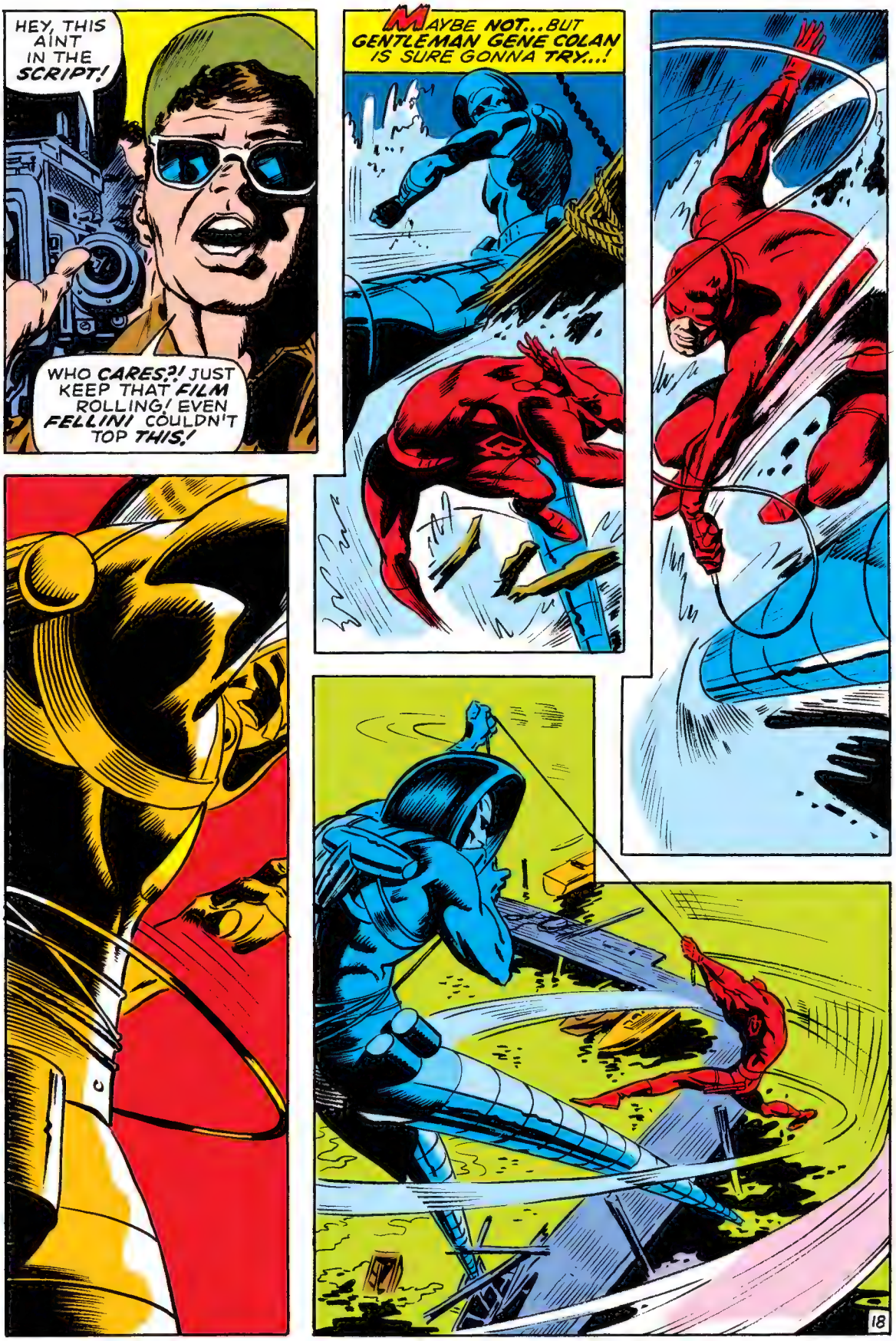

YOU KNOW THE SCENE BY NOW, I HOPE...
SO JUST GET OVER TO YOUR MACHINE AND REV HER UP!
I'LL TELL DAREDEVIL WHAT HE'S SUPPOSED TO DO!
SURE, MAN! I READ YA!
AND I'LL GIVE YOU THE FOOTAGE OF A LIFETIME... SOON AS I ATTACH MY STILTS TO THESE WHEELS!
13

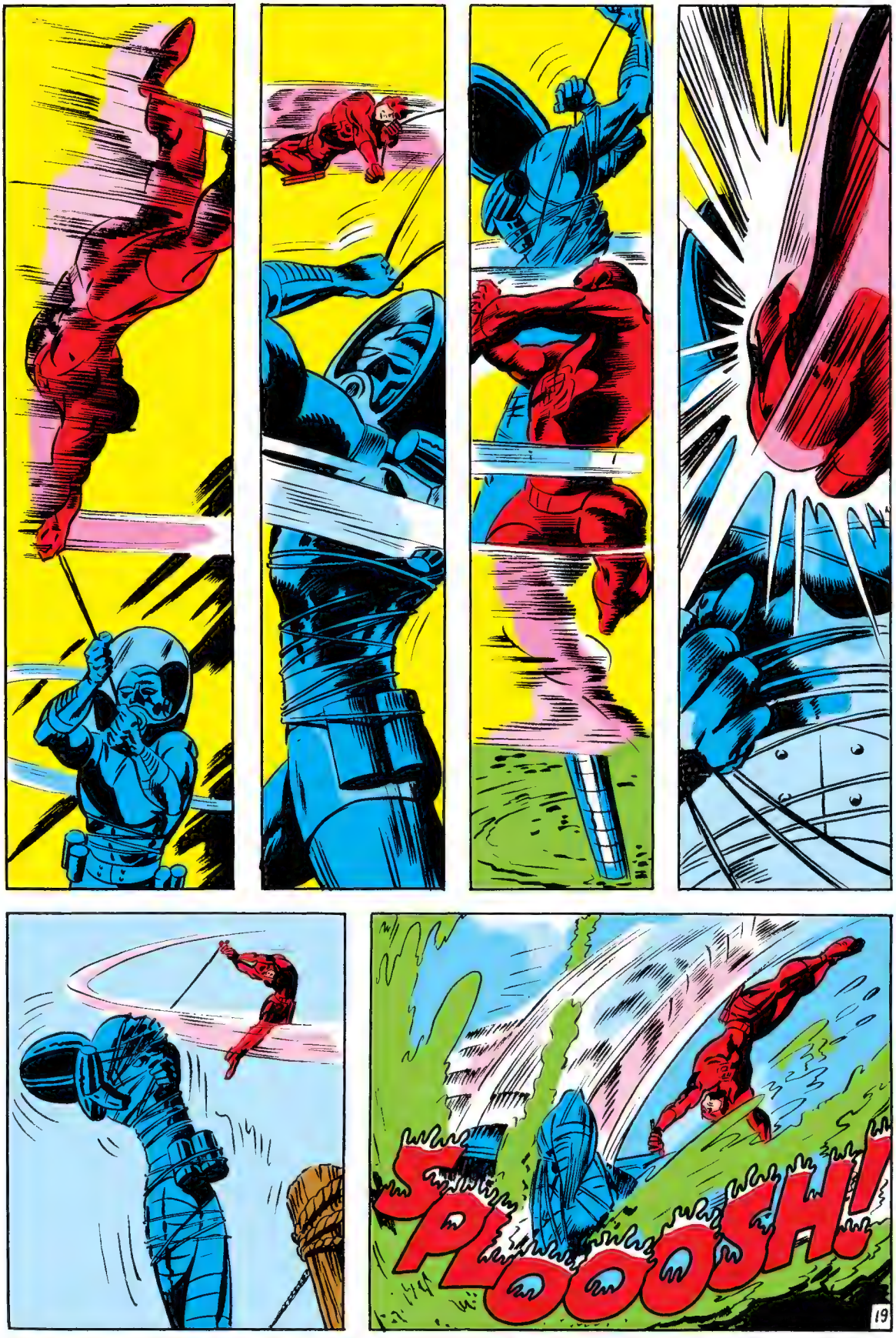

NOW, AS FOR YOU, DD...YOU'RE TO SWING OVER TO THE TOP OF THAT HOTEL SET!
STUNT-MASTER WILL COME ZOOMING UP AFTER YOU ON HIS CYCLE... AND HE'LL JUST MISS YOU!
AFTER THAT, WE'LL CUT AND BLOCK OUT THE FIGHT SCENE!
SOUNDS EASY ENOUGH! I COULD PROBABLY DO IT WITH MY EYES CLOSED!
OKAY...GET THE CAMERA ON HIM! LET'S CATCH HIM AS HE SWINGS UP!
NOW.. STUNT-MASTER!
GREAT! GREAT!
VRROOOOMM!
14

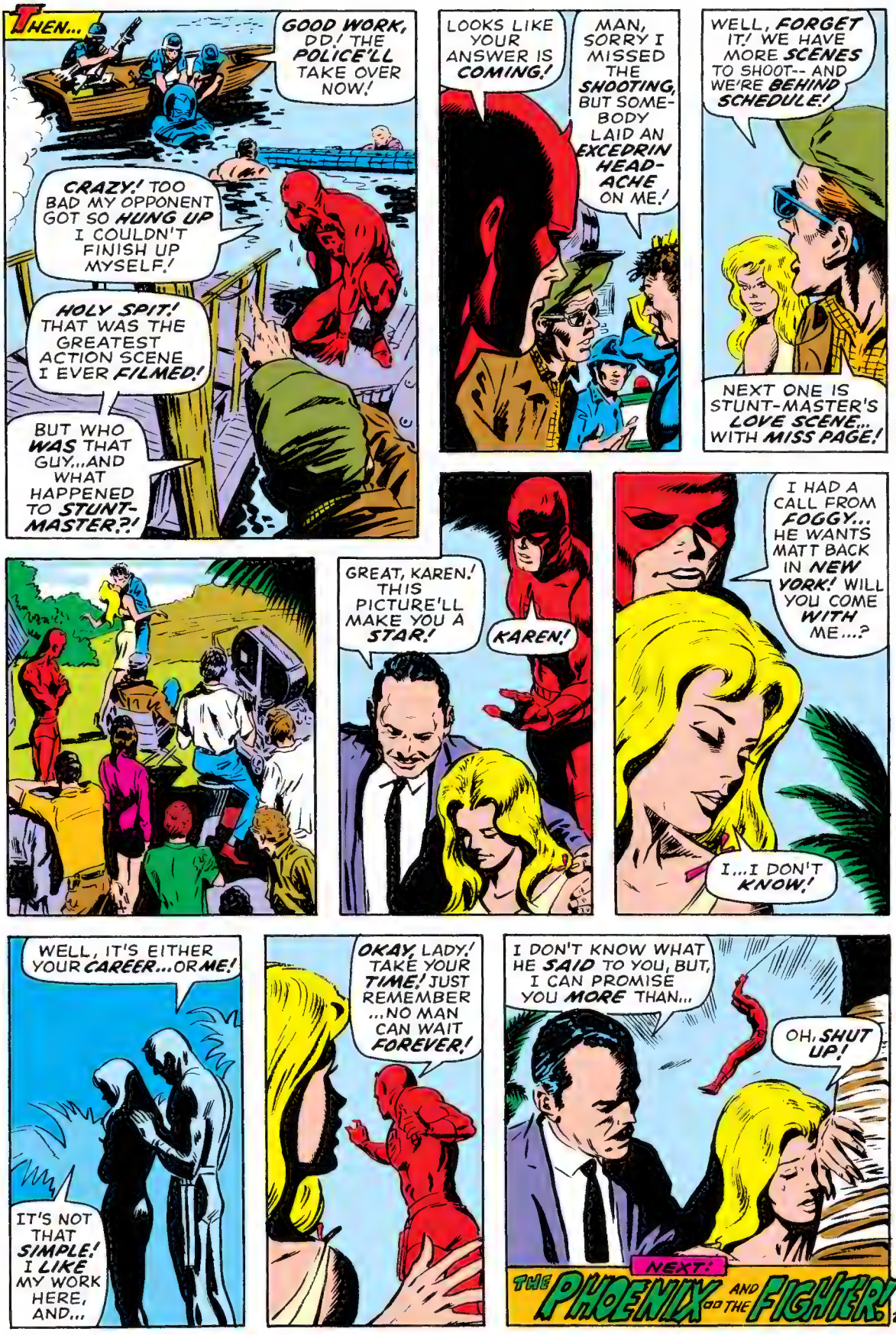

ACCELERATING LIKE CRAZY...
...JUST ABOUT TIME TO HIT THE JET BOOSTERS...
...NOW!
IT'S EVEN EASIER THAN I THOUGHT!
I'VE FLOWN ABOVE HIM...
...NOTHING LEFT NOW BUT TO SWOOP DOWN AND...
MISSED!!
HEY, FELLA! YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO COME THAT CLOSE!
ANOTHER INCH AND I'D HAVE BEEN... WHA....?!
15

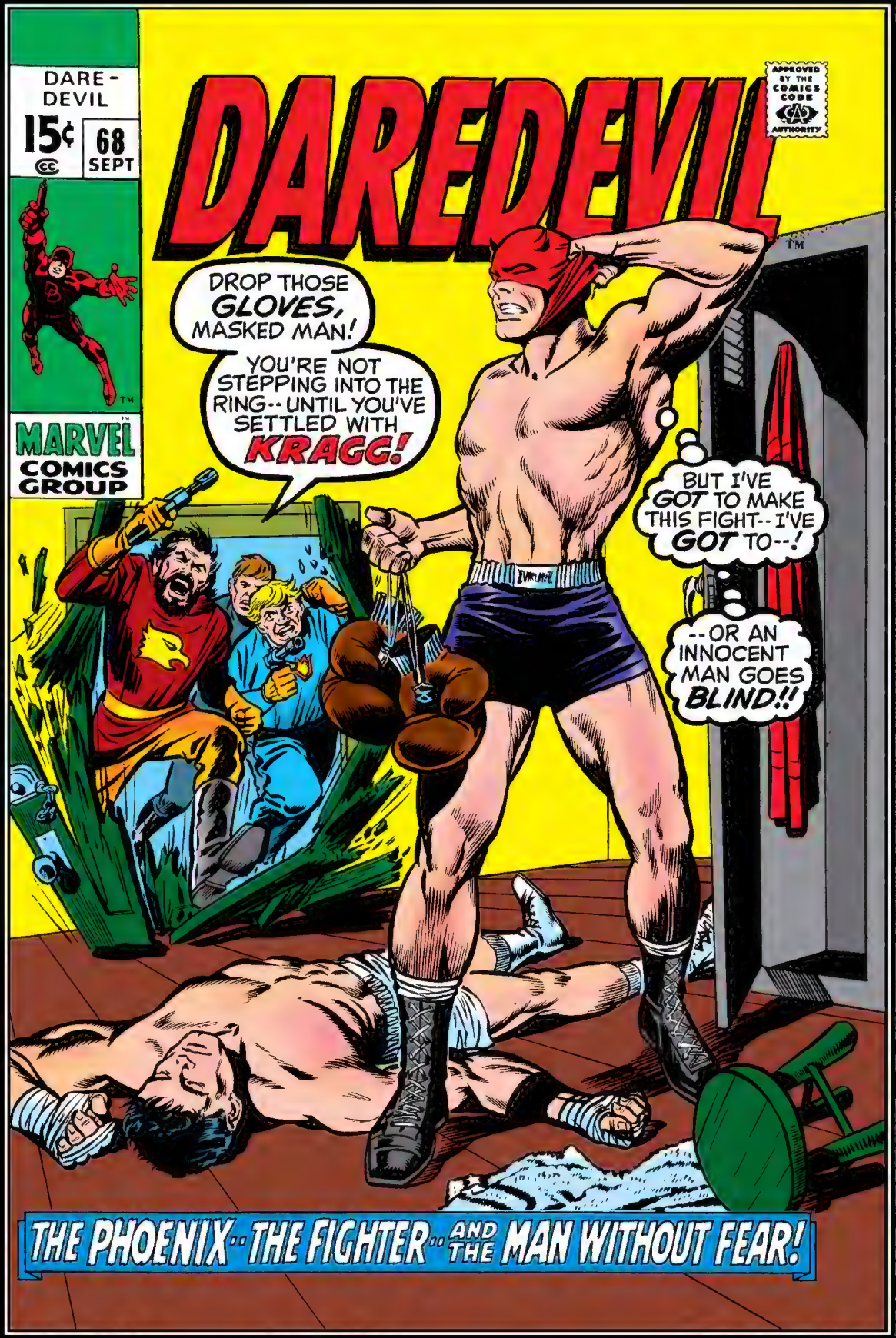
I LOST CONTROL OF THE BIKE...
...CRASHING THROUGH THE GUARD RAIL!
HE'S GOING OVER THE EDGE!
SPRAK!
RRRRR
LUCKY THE FALL WASN'T FAR...AND I WASN'T INJURED
SO MUCH FOR MY LITTLE CHARADE!
I'VE SALVAGED MY WEAPON... AND NOW I'LL ATTACK AS THE STILT-MAN!
HE DELIBERATELY TRIED TO HIT ME!
THEN, HE COULDN'T CONTROL HIS MOTOR-CYCLE!
IT'S ALL ADDING UP NOW...THE DIFFERENT HEARTBEAT...AND THOSE STRANGE CYLINDERS HE WAS CARRYING!
I THINK I HAVE THE ANSWER... AND A FEW MORE SECONDS SHOULD TELL ME IF I'M RIGHT!
16


BUT... NO! THERE'S NO TRACE OF HIM!
HE COULDN'T HAVE GOT AWAY THAT FAST...
...YET MY RADAR SENSE DETECTS NOTHING!
OF COURSE, IT'S POSSIBLE THAT HE'S TOO DEEP FOR MY SENSES TO REACH!
YES,..THAT MUST'VE BEEN IT! NOW I'M PICKING UP ON HIM.!
LUNGS ABOUT TO BURST... BUT... I'VE MADE IT!
MOVE YOUR BOAT FROM MY PATH...OR I'LL BE OBLIGED TO SMASH IT.!
GET BELOW, HONEY! WE'VE HAD ENOUGH MARTINIS FOR ONE CRUISE.!
OH, FRANK! YOU'RE NOT SEEING THINGS! IT..IT'S RRREEEEEEAL!
WELL, YOU CAN'T SAY I DIDN'T WARN YOU!
YOU ARE IN MY WAY...
...BUT NOT FOR LONG!

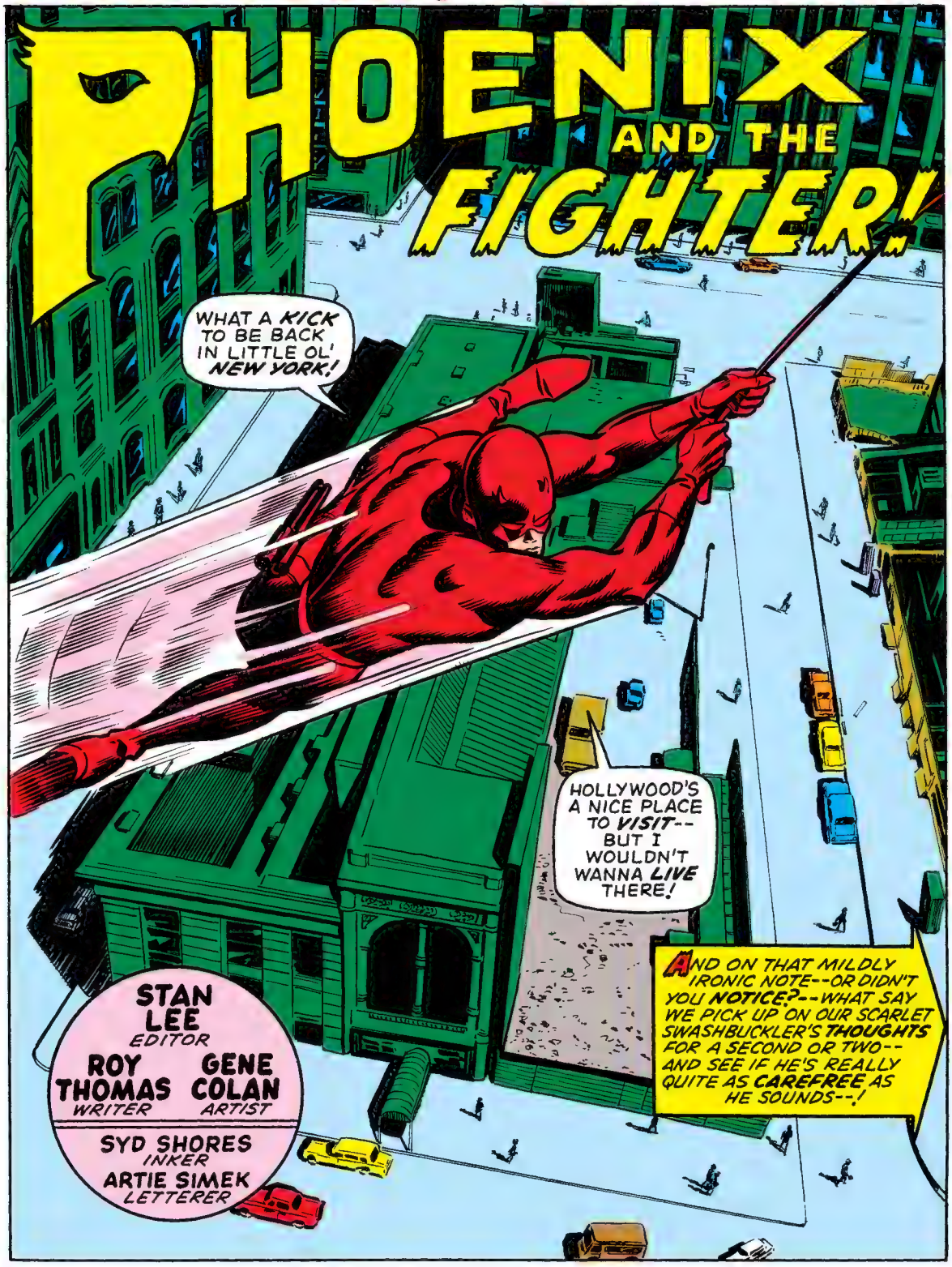

HEY, THIS AINT IN THE SCRIPT!
WHO CARES?! JUST KEEP THAT FILM ROLLING! EVEN FELLINI COULDN'T TOP THIS!
MAYBE NOT... BUT GENTLEMAN GENE COLAN IS SURE GONNA TRY...!
18


PLOOOSH!


THEN...
GOOD WORK, DD! THE POLICE'LL TAKE OVER NOW!
CRAZY! TOO BAD MY OPPONENT GOT SO HUNG UP I COULDN'T FINISH UP MYSELF!
HOLY SPIT! THAT WAS THE GREATEST ACTION SCENE I EVER FILMED!
BUT WHO WAS THAT GUY...AND WHAT HAPPENED TO STUNT-MASTER?!
LOOKS LIKE YOUR ANSWER IS COMING!
MAN, SORRY I MISSED THE SHOOTING, BUT SOMEBODY LAID AN EXCEDRIN HEADACHE ON ME!
WELL, FORGET IT! WE HAVE MORE SCENES TO SHOOT-- AND WE'RE BEHIND SCHEDULE!
NEXT ONE IS STUNT-MASTER'S LOVE SCENE... WITH MISS PAGE!
GREAT, KAREN! THIS PICTURE'LL MAKE YOU A STAR!
KAREN!
I HAD A CALL FROM FOGGY... HE WANTS MATT BACK IN NEW YORK! WILL YOU COME WITH ME....?
I...I DON'T KNOW!
WELL, IT'S EITHER YOUR CAREER...OR ME!
IT'S NOT THAT SIMPLE! I LIKE MY WORK HERE, AND...
OKAY, LADY! TAKE YOUR TIME! JUST REMEMBER ...NO MAN CAN WAIT FOREVER!
I DON'T KNOW WHAT HE SAID TO YOU, BUT, I CAN PROMISE YOU MORE THAN...
OH, SHUT UP!
NEXT:
THE PHOENIX AND THE FIGHTER!


DARE-DEVIL
15¢
68
SEPT
DAREDEVIL
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
MARVEL COMICS GROUP
DROP THOSE GLOVES, MASKED MAN!
YOU'RE NOT STEPPING INTO THE RING--UNTIL YOU'VE SETTLED WITH KRAGG!
BUT I'VE GOT TO MAKE THIS FIGHT--I'VE GOT TO--!
--OR AN INNOCENT MAN GOES BLIND!!
THE PHOENIX--THE FIGHTER--AND THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR!

DAREDEVIL, THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR!™


PHOENIX AND THE FIGHTER!
WHAT A KICK TO BE BACK IN LITTLE OL' NEW YORK!
HOLLYWOOD'S A NICE PLACE TO VISIT-- BUT I WOULDN'T WANNA LIVE THERE!
AND ON THAT MILDLY IRONIC NOTE--OR DIDN'T YOU NOTICE?--WHAT SAY WE PICK UP ON OUR SCARLET SWASHBUCKLER'S THOUGHTS FOR A SECOND OR TWO--AND SEE IF HE'S REALLY QUITE AS CAREFREE AS HE SOUNDS--!
STAN LEE EDITOR
ROY THOMAS WRITER
GENE COLAN ARTIST
SYD SHORES INKER
ARTIE SIMEK LETTERER

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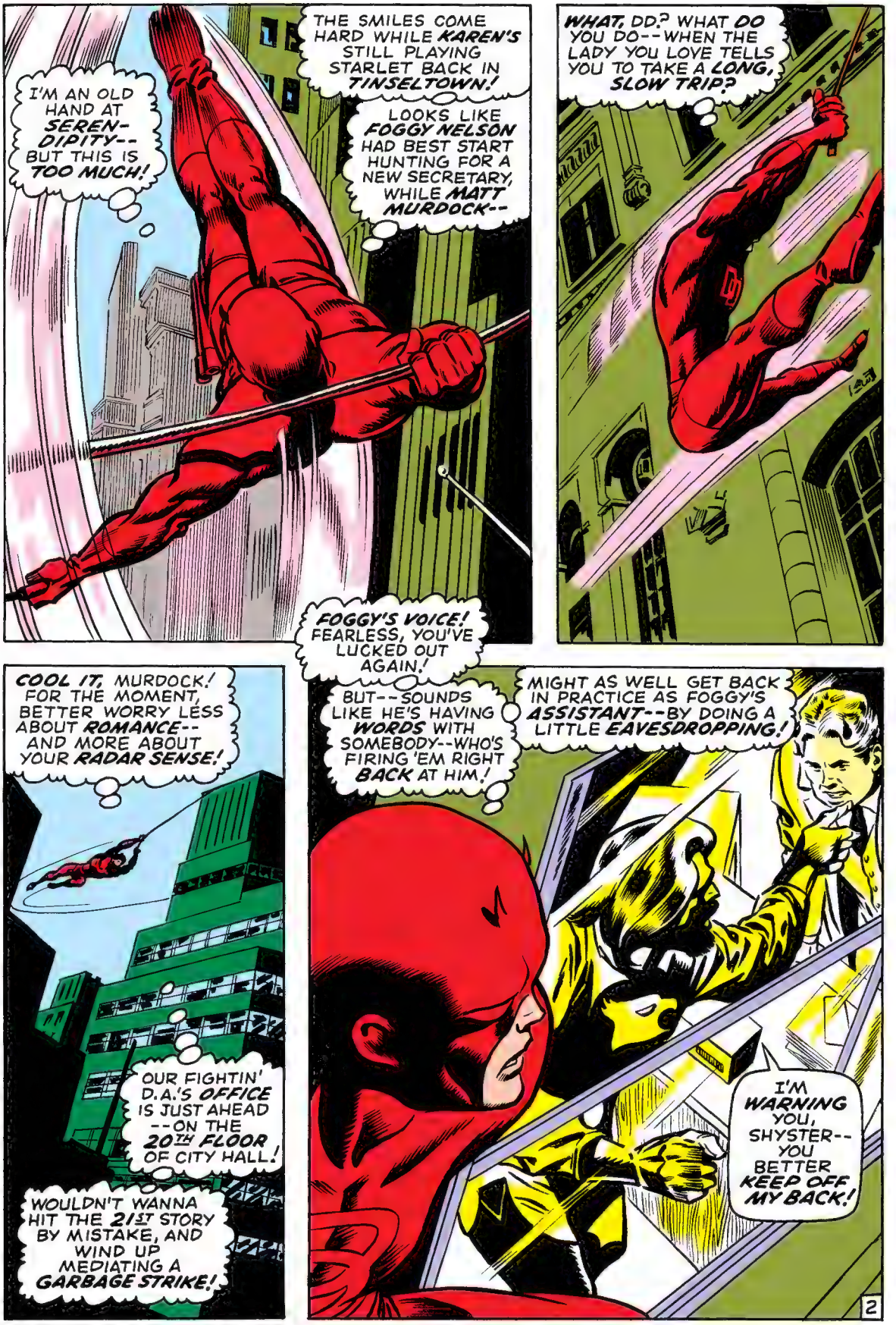
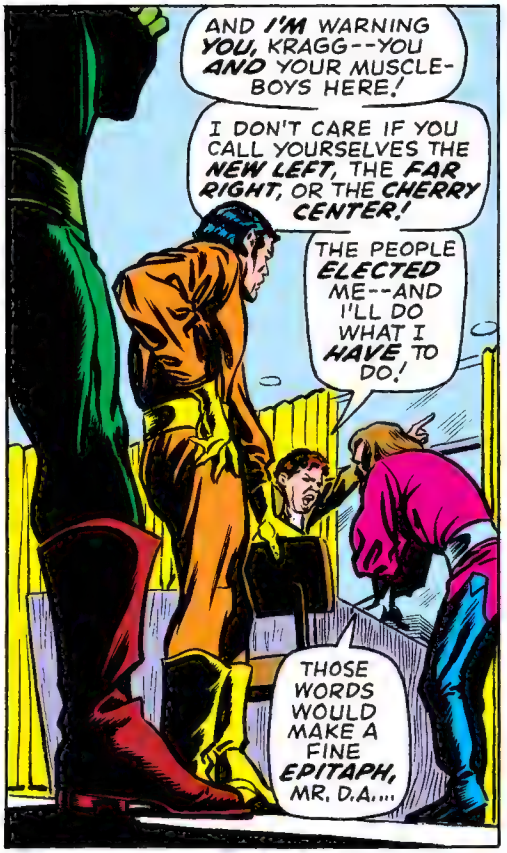
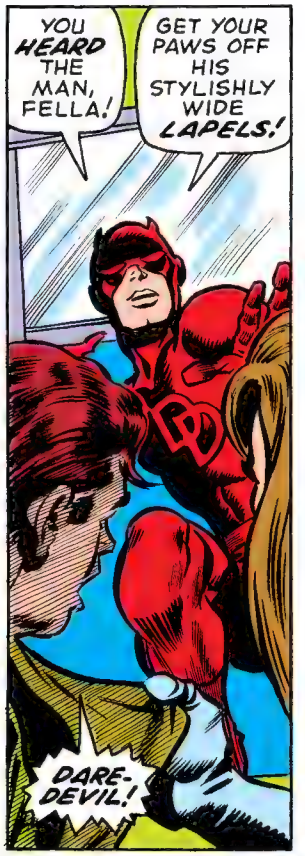

I'M AN OLD HAND AT SERENDIPITY-- BUT THIS IS TOO MUCH!
THE SMILES COME HARD WHILE KAREN'S STILL PLAYING STARLET BACK IN TINSELTOWN!
LOOKS LIKE FOGGY NELSON HAD BEST START HUNTING FOR A NEW SECRETARY, WHILE MATT MURDOCK--
WHAT, DD? WHAT DO YOU DO--WHEN THE LADY YOU LOVE TELLS YOU TO TAKE A LONG, SLOW TRIP?
FOGGY'S VOICE! FEARLESS, YOU'VE LUCKED OUT AGAIN!
COOL IT, MURDOCK! FOR THE MOMENT, BETTER WORRY LESS ABOUT ROMANCE-- AND MORE ABOUT YOUR RADAR SENSE!
OUR FIGHTIN' D.A.'S OFFICE IS JUST AHEAD --ON THE 20TH FLOOR OF CITY HALL!
WOULDN'T WANNA HIT THE 21ST STORY BY MISTAKE, AND WIND UP MEDIATING A GARBAGE STRIKE!
BUT--SOUNDS LIKE HE'S HAVING WORDS WITH SOMEBODY--WHO'S FIRING 'EM RIGHT BACK AT HIM!
MIGHT AS WELL GET BACK IN PRACTICE AS FOGGY'S ASSISTANT--BY DOING A LITTLE EAVESDROPPING!
I'M WARNING YOU, SHYSTER-- YOU BETTER KEEP OFF MY BACK!
2


AND I'M WARNING YOU, KRAGG--YOU AND YOUR MUSCLE-BOYS HERE!
I DON'T CARE IF YOU CALL YOURSELVES THE NEW LEFT, THE FAR RIGHT, OR THE CHERRY CENTER!
THE PEOPLE ELECTED ME--AND I'LL DO WHAT I HAVE TO DO!
THOSE WORDS WOULD MAKE A FINE EPITAPH, MR. D.A....

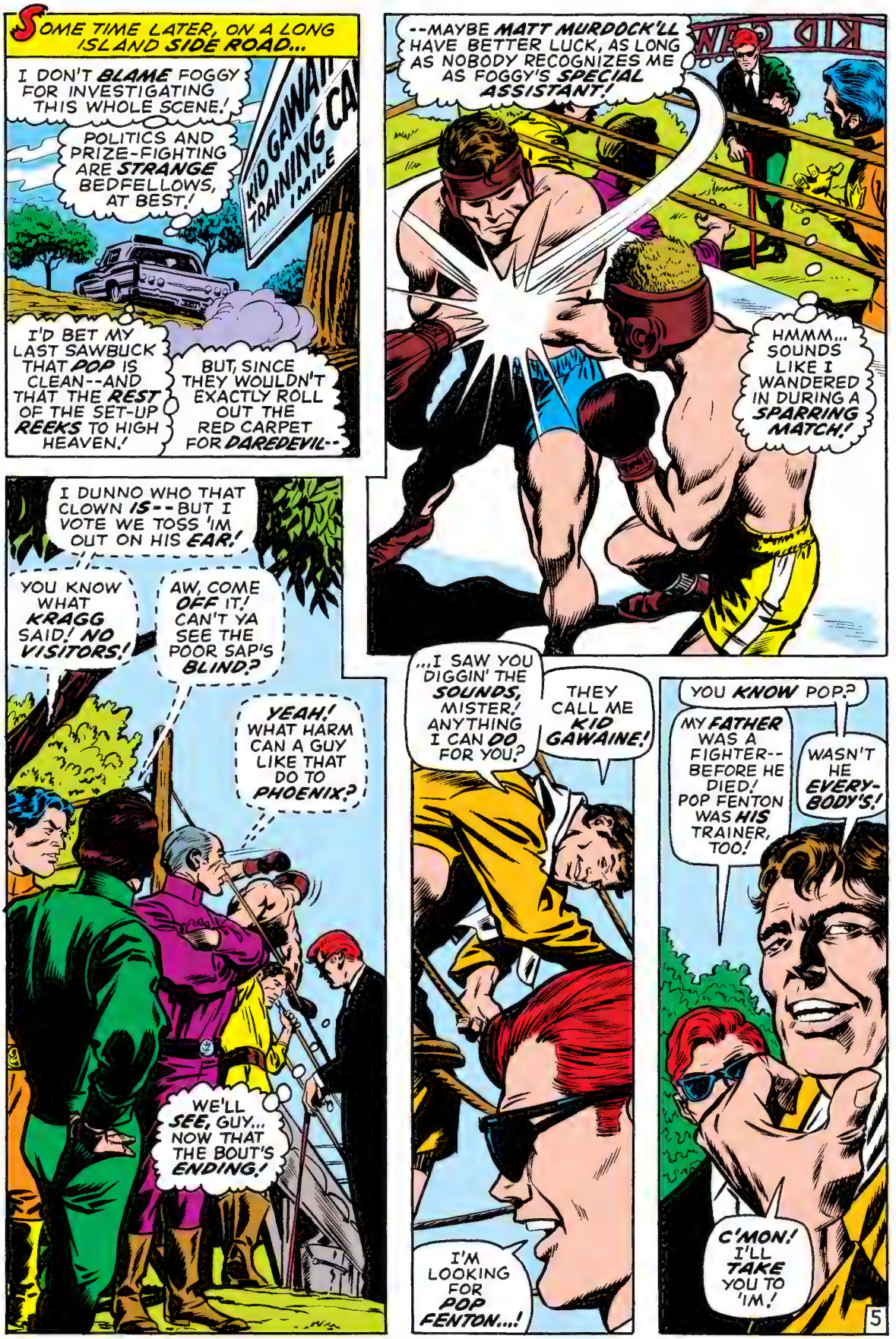
...CONSIDERING THERE ARE THREE OF US, TO YOUR ONE!
NOW, DO YOU SWEAR YOU'LL STOP HOUNDING US, OR DO I--
LET--GO--OF--ME--KRAGG!

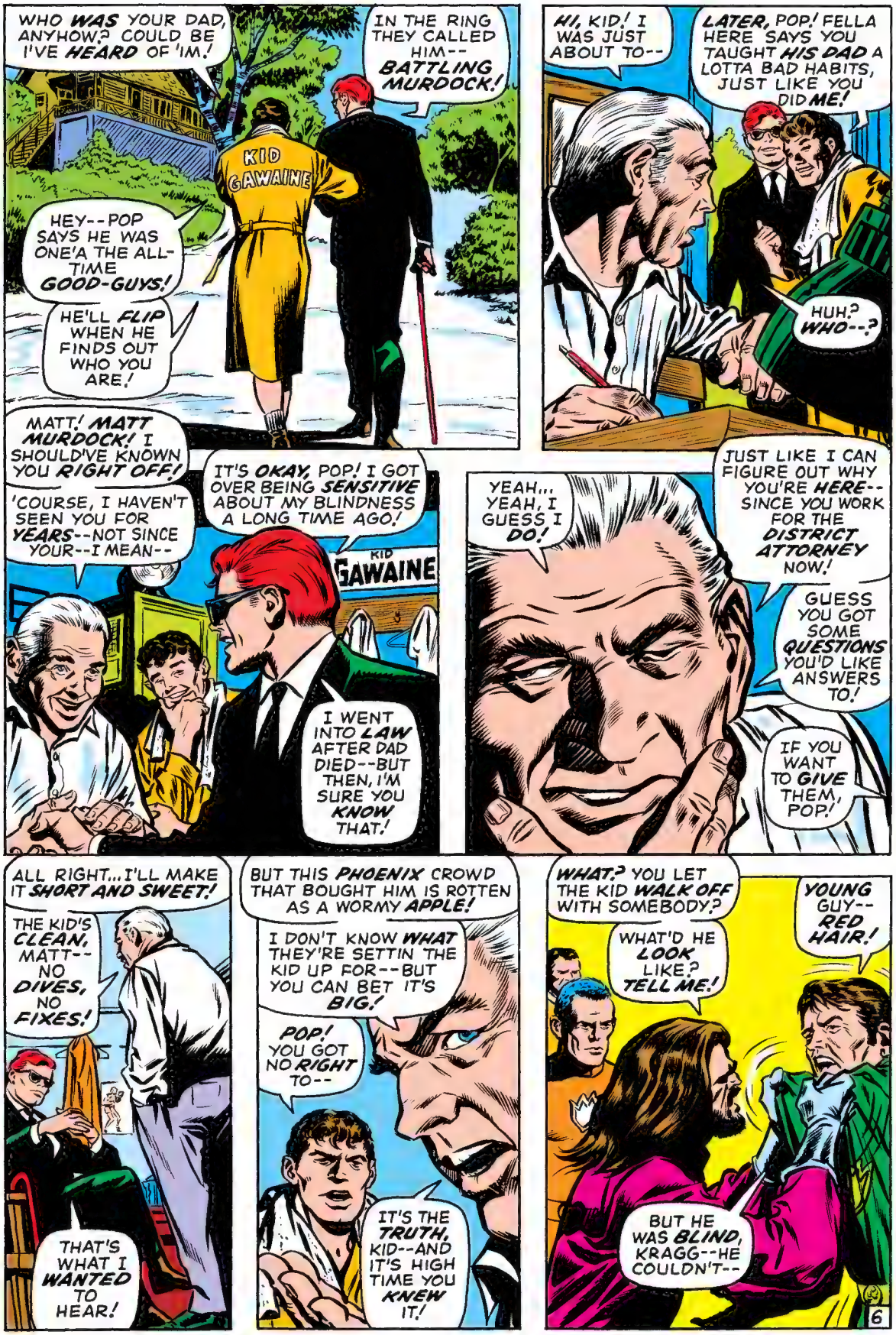

YOU HEARD THE MAN, FELLA!
GET YOUR PAWS OFF HIS STYLISHLY WIDE LAPELS!
DARE-DEVIL!

NOBODY TELLS KRAGG WHAT TO DO, YOU--
DON'T HURT HIM, DD! HE DOESN'T DESERVE THE FREE PUBLICITY!
OWW!
WOULDN'T DREAM OF IT, MR. D.A.!
NOW SCAT, RAT!

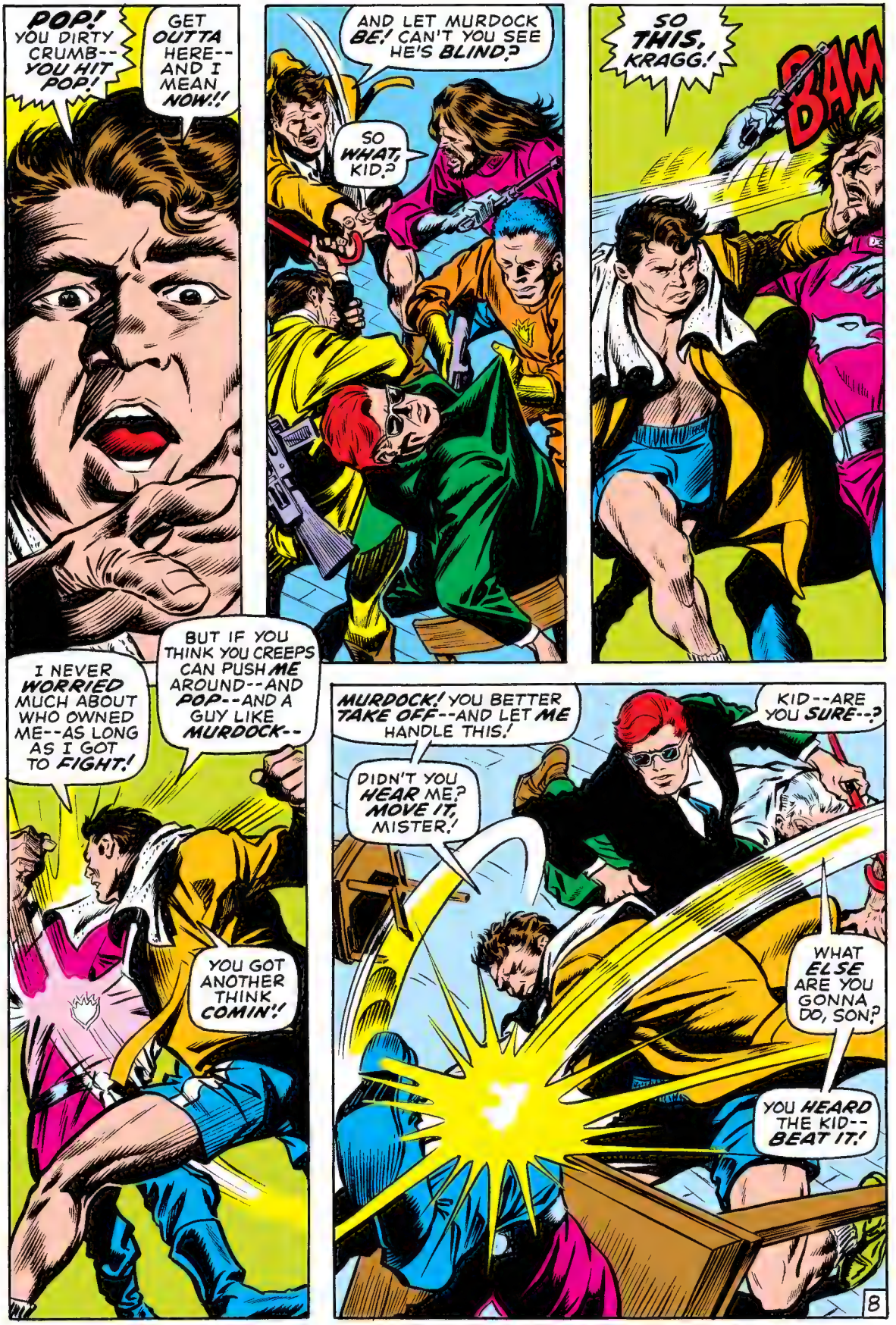
WE'RE GOING--BUT YOU HAVEN'T SEEN THE LAST OF US, EITHER OF YOU!
I'M SURE WE WILL, MISTER--
YOU'LL BE HEARING FROM US AGAIN!
--SOMETIME WHEN THE ODDS ARE A BIT BETTER THAN THREE-TO-TWO, NO DOUBT!

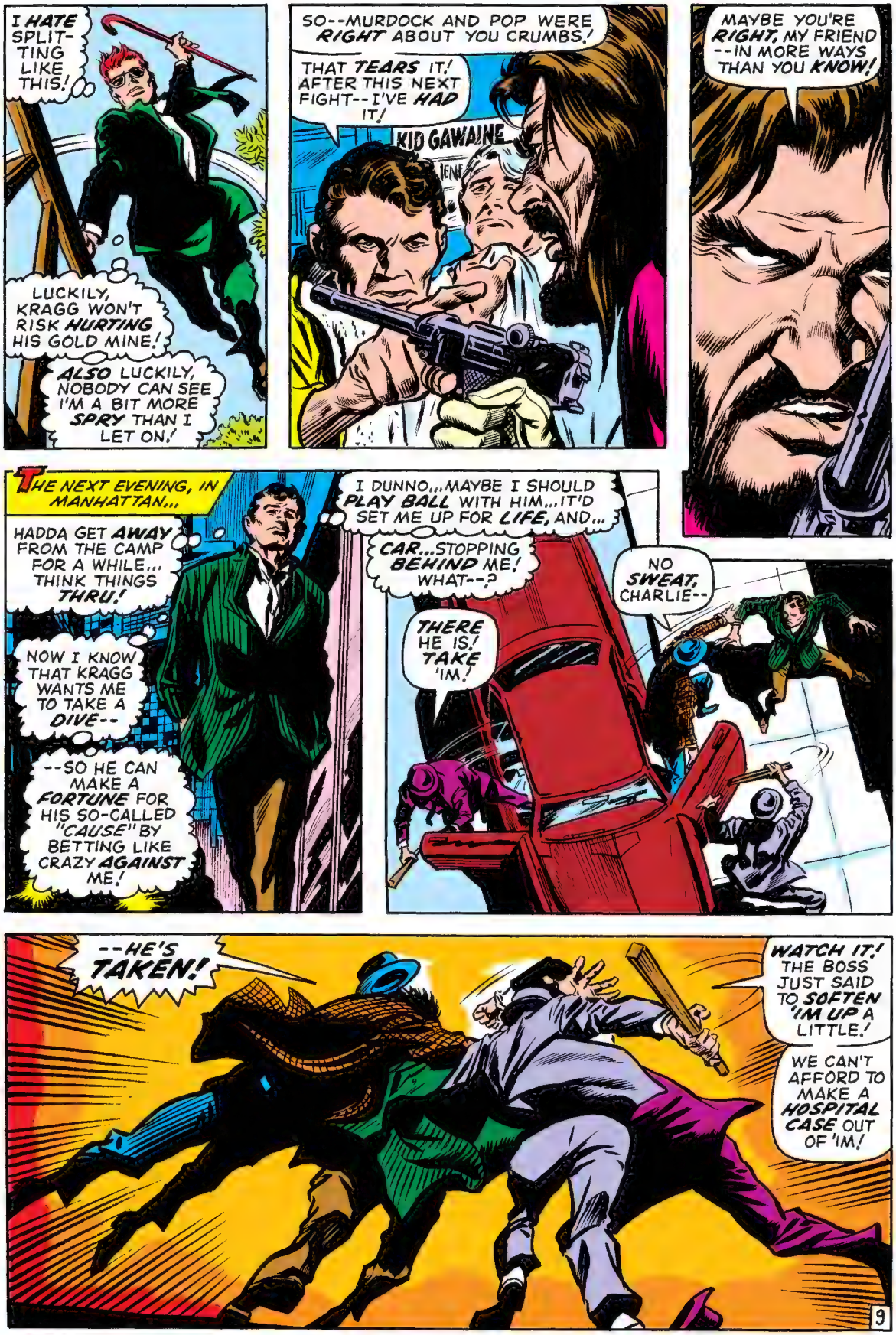
SLAM
THANKS FOR THE ASSIST, DD! I DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE BACK IN TOWN!
FRESH OFF THE BUS!
TELL ME--WHO WERE THE JOY-BOYS?
THIS PAPER WILL EXPLAIN THINGS....!
...READ IT AND WEEP!
MIDDLEWEIGHT CONTENDER PURCHASED BY MYSTERIOUS SPORTS SYNDICATE!"
KID GAWAINE SET FOR CHAMPIONSHIP BOUT IN MADISON SQUARE GARDEN!
LET ME PORE OVER THIS FOR A MINUTE!
--'SPECIALLY SINCE I'VE GOT TO DO MY SPEED-READING CASUALLY--WITH MY FINGERS DOING THE WALKING!
GET THE PICTURE, DD?
THAT "MYSTERIOUS SPORTS SYNDICATE" IS NONE OTHER THAN KRAGG AND HIS GOONS--
--RAMRODS OF AN EXTREMIST GROUP THAT CALLS ITSELF--PHOENIX!
I DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT THIS KID GAWAINE YET--
'CAUSE AS SOON AS I ANNOUNCED I WAS LOOKING INTO THIS PURCHASE, I GOT THOSE VISITORS YOU HELPED ME ROUT!
SAY--YOU SURE YOU'VE HEARD A WORD I'M SPOUTING?
SOMETHING IN THE PAPER JUST CAUGHT MY...EYE!
IT CAN'T BE--BUT IT IS!
THE KID'S TRAINER IS POP FENTON!
HE TRAINED MY FATHER--WHEN I WAS IN KNEEPANTS!
TRAINER POP FENTON
THAT MAKES ME DOUBLY INTERESTED IN THIS LITTLE CAPER!
OF COURSE, I CAN'T TELL FOGGY THE REASON FOR MY SUDDEN SURGE OF INTEREST!
--SO MAYBE I'D BETTER SAY NOTHING AT ALL!
HEY--WAIT! WHERE ARE Y--?
YOU'LL FIND OUT, MR. D.A.... AND SOON!
4

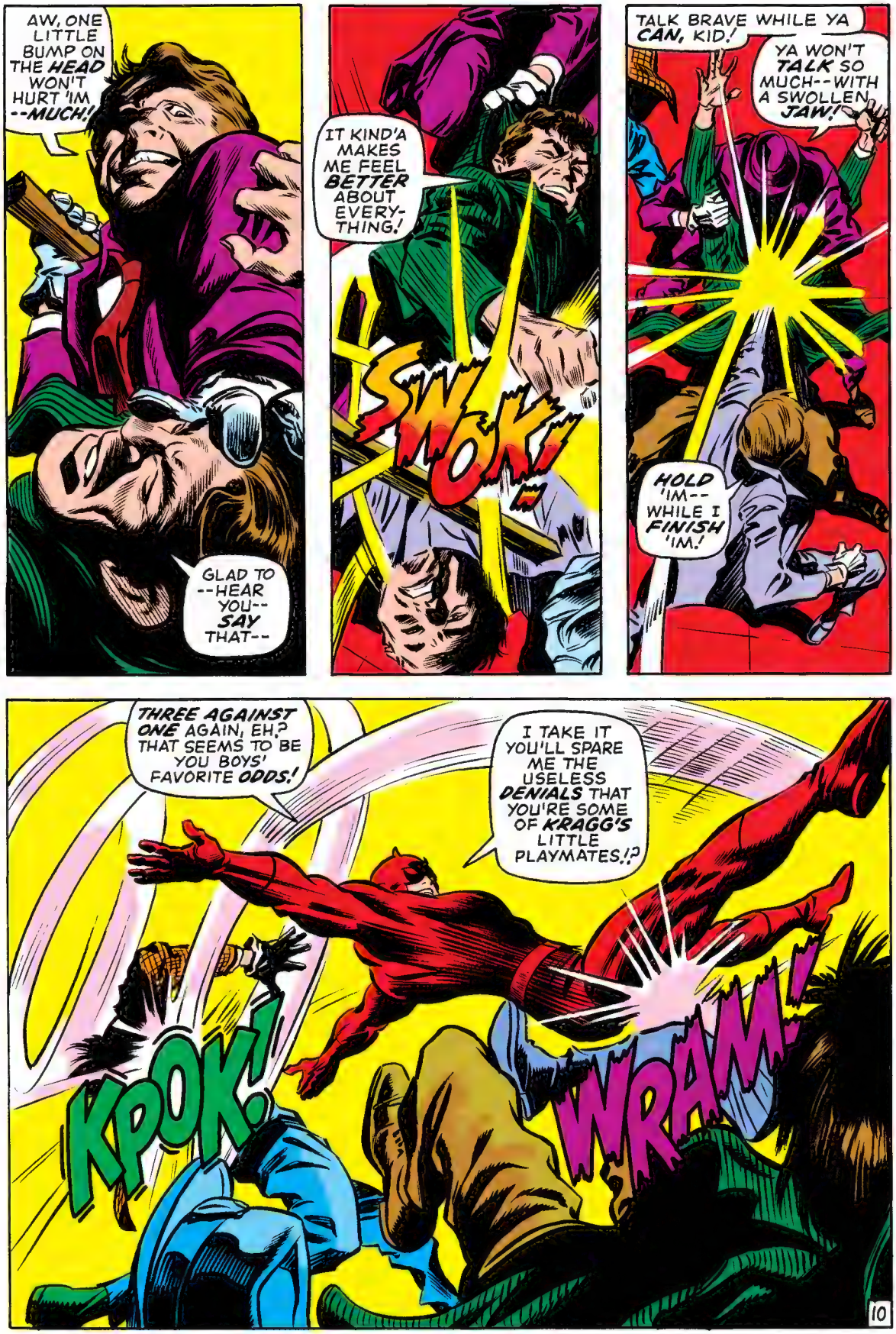

SOME TIME LATER, ON A LONG ISLAND SIDE ROAD...
I DON'T BLAME FOGGY FOR INVESTIGATING THIS WHOLE SCENE!
POLITICS AND PRIZE-FIGHTING ARE STRANGE BEDFELLOWS, AT BEST!
KID GAWAI TRAINING CA 1 MILE
I'D BET MY LAST SAWBUCK THAT POP IS CLEAN--AND THAT THE REST OF THE SET-UP REEKS TO HIGH HEAVEN!
BUT, SINCE THEY WOULDN'T EXACTLY ROLL OUT THE RED CARPET FOR DAREDEVIL--
--MAYBE MATT MURDOCK'LL HAVE BETTER LUCK, AS LONG AS NOBODY RECOGNIZES ME AS FOGGY'S SPECIAL ASSISTANT!
HMMM... SOUNDS LIKE I WANDERED IN DURING A SPARRING MATCH!
I DUNNO WHO THAT CLOWN IS--BUT I VOTE WE TOSS 'IM OUT ON HIS EAR!
YOU KNOW WHAT KRAGG SAID! NO VISITORS!
AW, COME OFF IT! CAN'T YA SEE THE POOR SAP'S BLIND?
YEAH! WHAT HARM CAN A GUY LIKE THAT DO TO PHOENIX?
WE'LL SEE, GUY... NOW THAT THE BOUT'S ENDING!
...I SAW YOU DIGGIN' THE SOUNDS, MISTER! ANYTHING I CAN DO FOR YOU?
THEY CALL ME KID GAWAINE!
I'M LOOKING FOR POP FENTON...!
YOU KNOW POP?
MY FATHER WAS A FIGHTER--BEFORE HE DIED! POP FENTON WAS HIS TRAINER, TOO!
WASN'T HE EVERY-BODY'S!
C'MON! I'LL TAKE YOU TO 'IM!
5

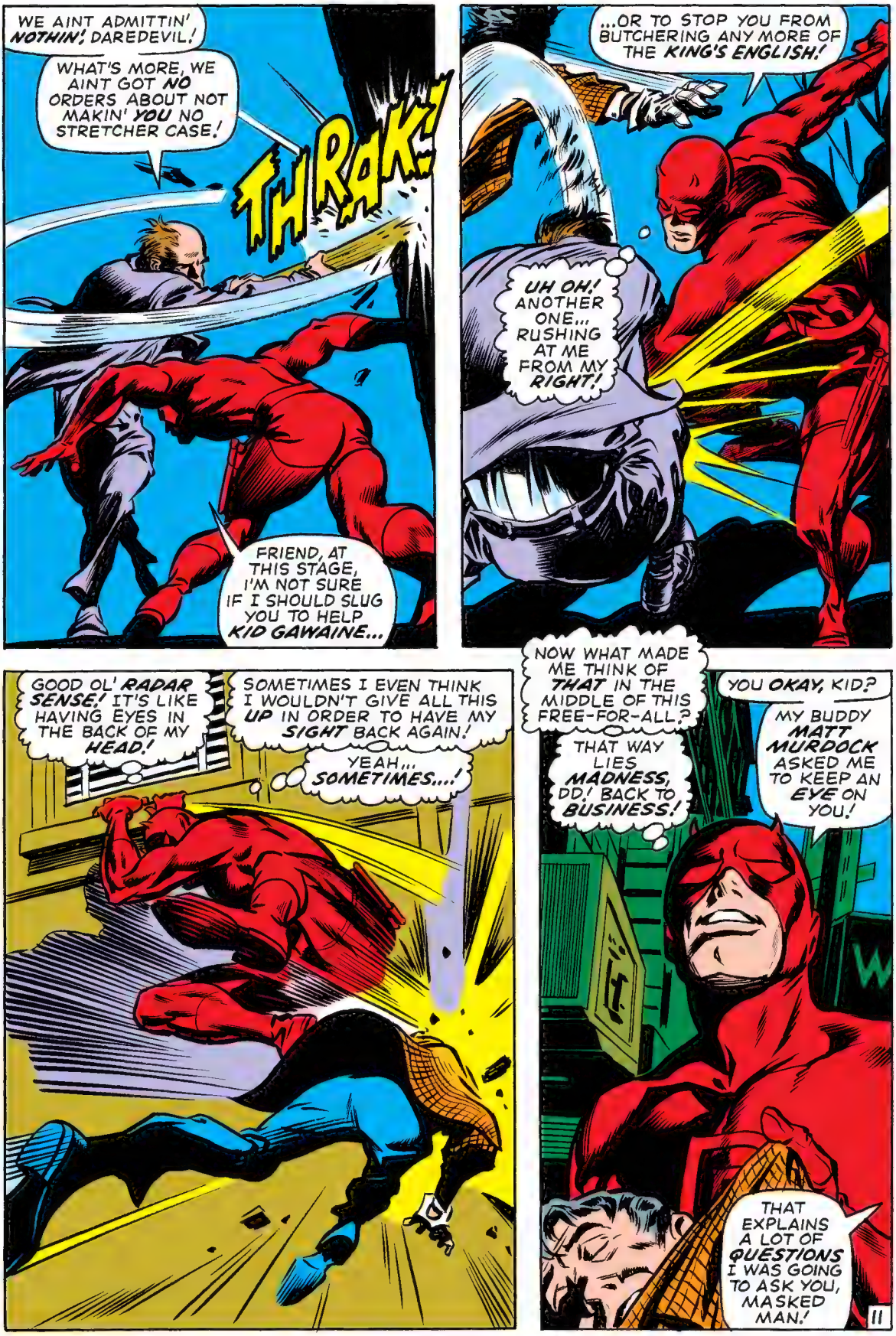

WHO WAS YOUR DAD, ANYHOW? COULD BE I'VE HEARD OF 'IM!
IN THE RING THEY CALLED HIM-- BATTLING MURDOCK!
KID GAWAINE
HEY--POP SAYS HE WAS ONE'A THE ALL-TIME GOOD-GUYS!
HE'LL FLIP WHEN HE FINDS OUT WHO YOU ARE!
HI, KID! I WAS JUST ABOUT TO--
LATER, POP! FELLA HERE SAYS YOU TAUGHT HIS DAD A LOTTA BAD HABITS, JUST LIKE YOU DID ME!
HUH? WHO--?
MATT! MATT MURDOCK! I SHOULD'VE KNOWN YOU RIGHT OFF!
'COURSE, I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU FOR YEARS--NOT SINCE YOUR--I MEAN--
IT'S OKAY, POP! I GOT OVER BEING SENSITIVE ABOUT MY BLINDNESS A LONG TIME AGO!
KID GAWAINE
I WENT INTO LAW AFTER DAD DIED--BUT THEN, I'M SURE YOU KNOW THAT!
YEAH... YEAH, I GUESS I DO!
JUST LIKE I CAN FIGURE OUT WHY YOU'RE HERE-- SINCE YOU WORK FOR THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY NOW!
GUESS YOU GOT SOME QUESTIONS YOU'D LIKE ANSWERS TO!
IF YOU WANT TO GIVE THEM, POP!
ALL RIGHT... I'LL MAKE IT SHORT AND SWEET!
THE KID'S CLEAN, MATT-- NO DIVES, NO FIXES!
THAT'S WHAT I WANTED TO HEAR!
BUT THIS PHOENIX CROWD THAT BOUGHT HIM IS ROTTEN AS A WORMY APPLE!
I DON'T KNOW WHAT THEY'RE SETTIN THE KID UP FOR--BUT YOU CAN BET IT'S BIG!
POP! YOU GOT NO RIGHT TO--
IT'S THE TRUTH, KID--AND IT'S HIGH TIME YOU KNEW IT!
WHAT? YOU LET THE KID WALK OFF WITH SOMEBODY?
WHAT'D HE LOOK LIKE? TELL ME!
YOUNG GUY-- RED HAIR!
BUT HE WAS BLIND, KRAGG--HE COULDN'T--
6

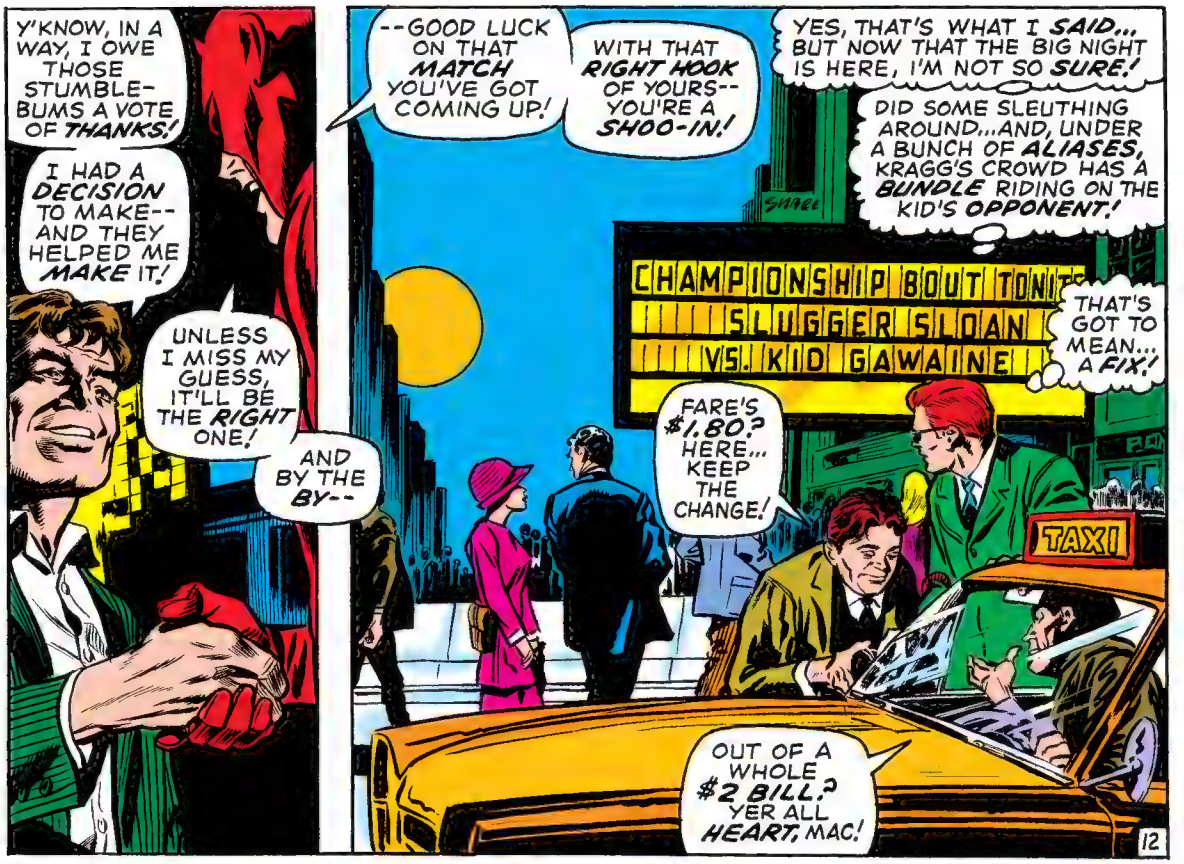
YOU BUMBLING OX! THAT WAS MATT MURDOCK --THE D.A.'S PRIZE STOOGE!
TWO OF YOU-- COME WITH ME! MAYBE THERE'S STILL TIME!
I DON'T GET IT, KRAGG! WHAT CAN GO WRONG NOW?
PLENTY, YOU FOOL-- IF KID GAWAINE STARTS TO FIGURE WE'RE NOT ON THE UP-AND-UP!
I KNOW HIS KIND! HE MIGHT EVEN QUIT BOXING--AND WE'VE GOT A BUNDLE INVESTED IN HIM!
NOBODY'S GONNA STOP THAT INVEST-MENT FROM PAYING OFF! YOU HEAR ME? NOBODY!
KRAGG! WHAT IN THE NAME'A--?
SHUT UP, KID! THIS DOESN'T CONCERN YOU!
IT'S STRICTLY BETWEEN ME-- AND THE D.A.'S STOOLIE, HERE!
HOLD IT, KRAGG! YOU CAN'T JUST BARGE IN LIKE--
MMFFF!
WHAT IS IT? WHAT'S WRONG?
CAN'T LET ON-- I'M NOT TRULY HELP-LESS!
DON'T WORRY, MURDOCK! YOU'LL FIND OUT WHAT'S GOING ON--AND YOU AREN'T GOING TO LIKE IT!
7

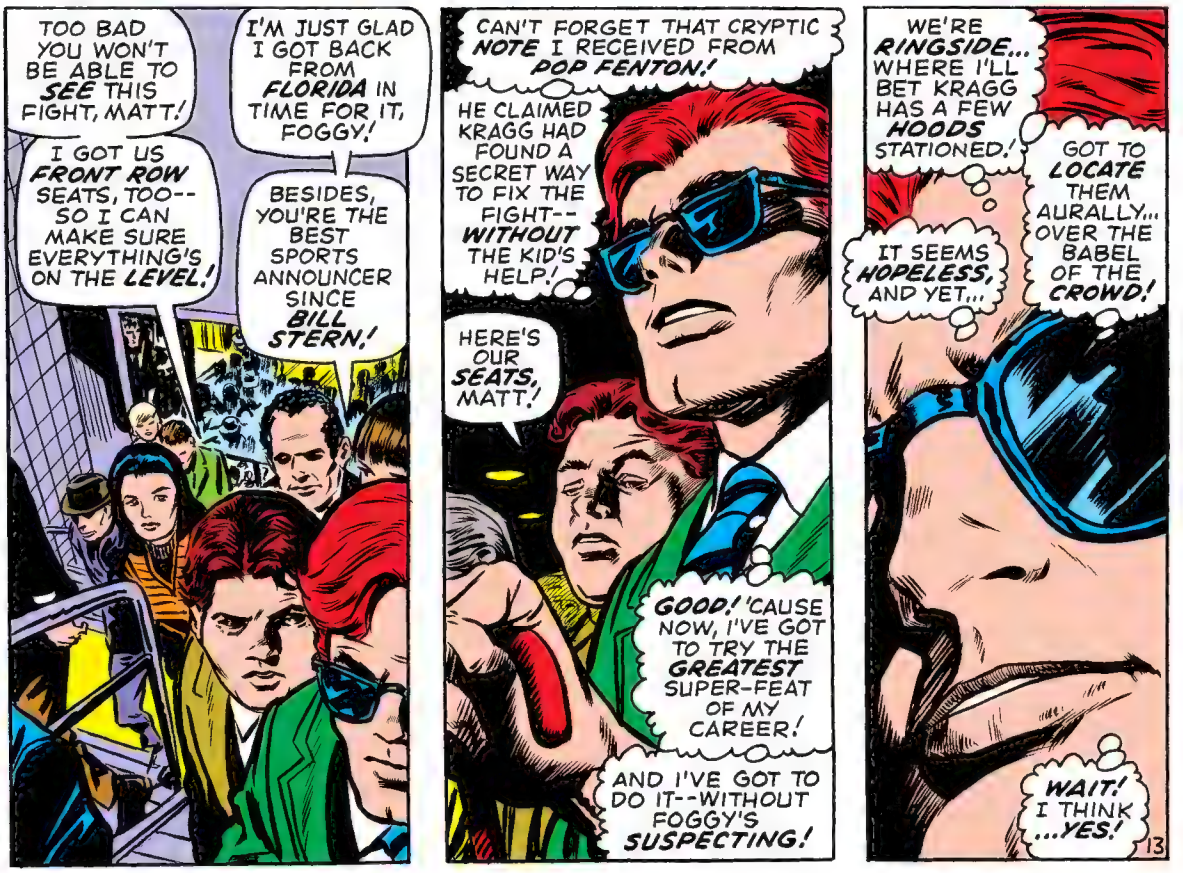

POP! YOU DIRTY CRUMB--YOU HIT POP!
GET OUTTA HERE--AND I MEAN NOW!!
AND LET MURDOCK BE! CAN'T YOU SEE HE'S BLIND?
SO WHAT, KID?
SO THIS, KRAGG!
BAM
I NEVER WORRIED MUCH ABOUT WHO OWNED ME--AS LONG AS I GOT TO FIGHT!
BUT IF YOU THINK YOU CREEPS CAN PUSH ME AROUND--AND POP--AND A GUY LIKE MURDOCK--
YOU GOT ANOTHER THINK COMIN'!
MURDOCK! YOU BETTER TAKE OFF--AND LET ME HANDLE THIS!
DIDN'T YOU HEAR ME? MOVE IT, MISTER!
KID--ARE YOU SURE--?
WHAT ELSE ARE YOU GONNA DO, SON?
YOU HEARD THE KID--BEAT IT!
8

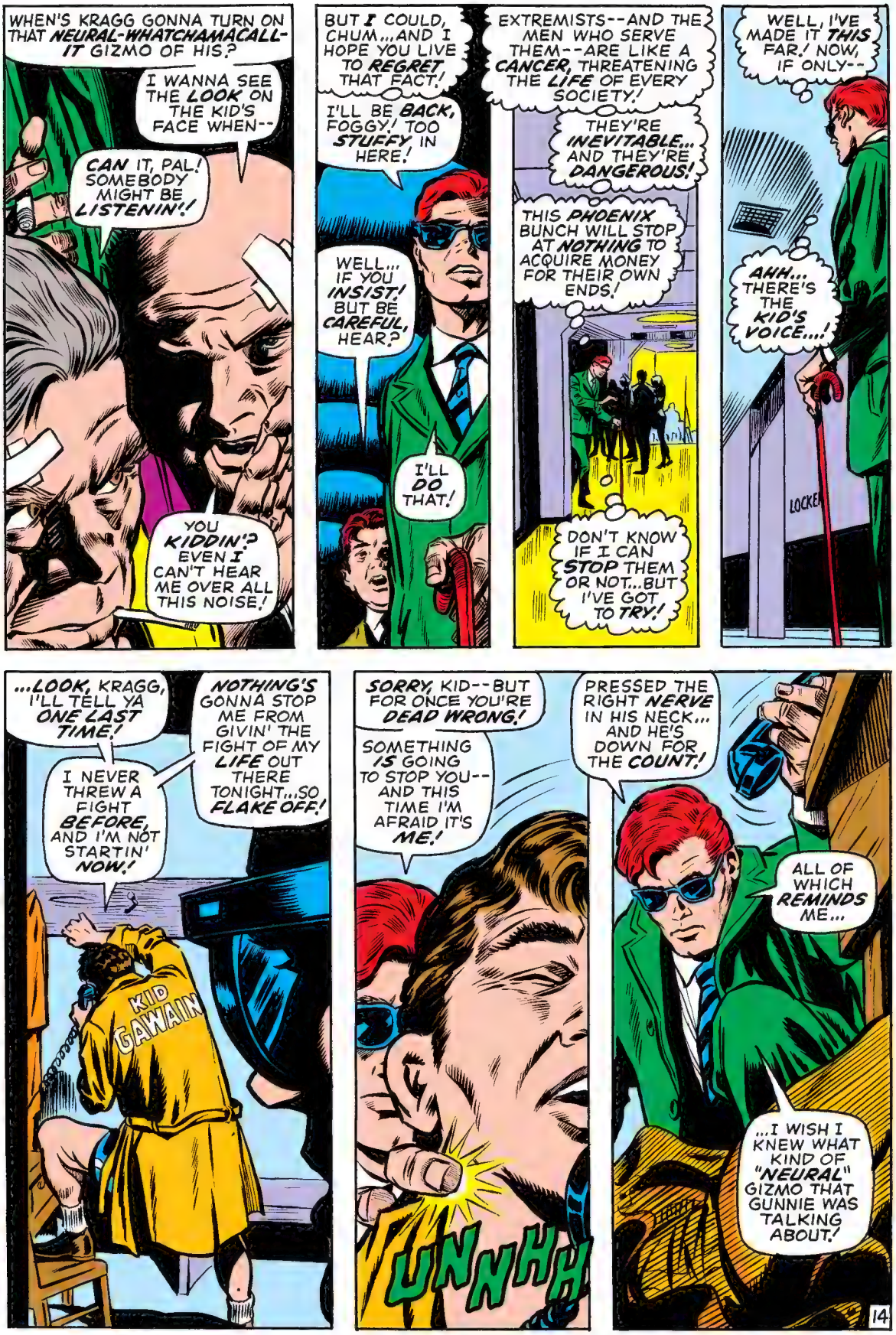

I HATE SPLITTING LIKE THIS!
LUCKILY, KRAGG WON'T RISK HURTING HIS GOLD MINE!
ALSO LUCKILY, NOBODY CAN SEE I'M A BIT MORE SPRY THAN I LET ON!
SO--MURDOCK AND POP WERE RIGHT ABOUT YOU CRUMBS!
THAT TEARS IT! AFTER THIS NEXT FIGHT--I'VE HAD IT!
KID GAWAINE
MAYBE YOU'RE RIGHT, MY FRIEND --IN MORE WAYS THAN YOU KNOW!
THE NEXT EVENING, IN MANHATTAN...
HADDA GET AWAY FROM THE CAMP FOR A WHILE... THINK THINGS THRU!
NOW I KNOW THAT KRAGG WANTS ME TO TAKE A DIVE--
--SO HE CAN MAKE A FORTUNE FOR HIS SO-CALLED "CAUSE" BY BETTING LIKE CRAZY AGAINST ME!
I DUNNO...MAYBE I SHOULD PLAY BALL WITH HIM...IT'D SET ME UP FOR LIFE, AND...
CAR...STOPPING BEHIND ME! WHAT--?
THERE HE IS! TAKE 'IM!
NO SWEAT, CHARLIE--
--HE'S TAKEN!
WATCH IT! THE BOSS JUST SAID TO SOFTEN 'IM UP A LITTLE!
WE CAN'T AFFORD TO MAKE A HOSPITAL CASE OUT OF 'IM!

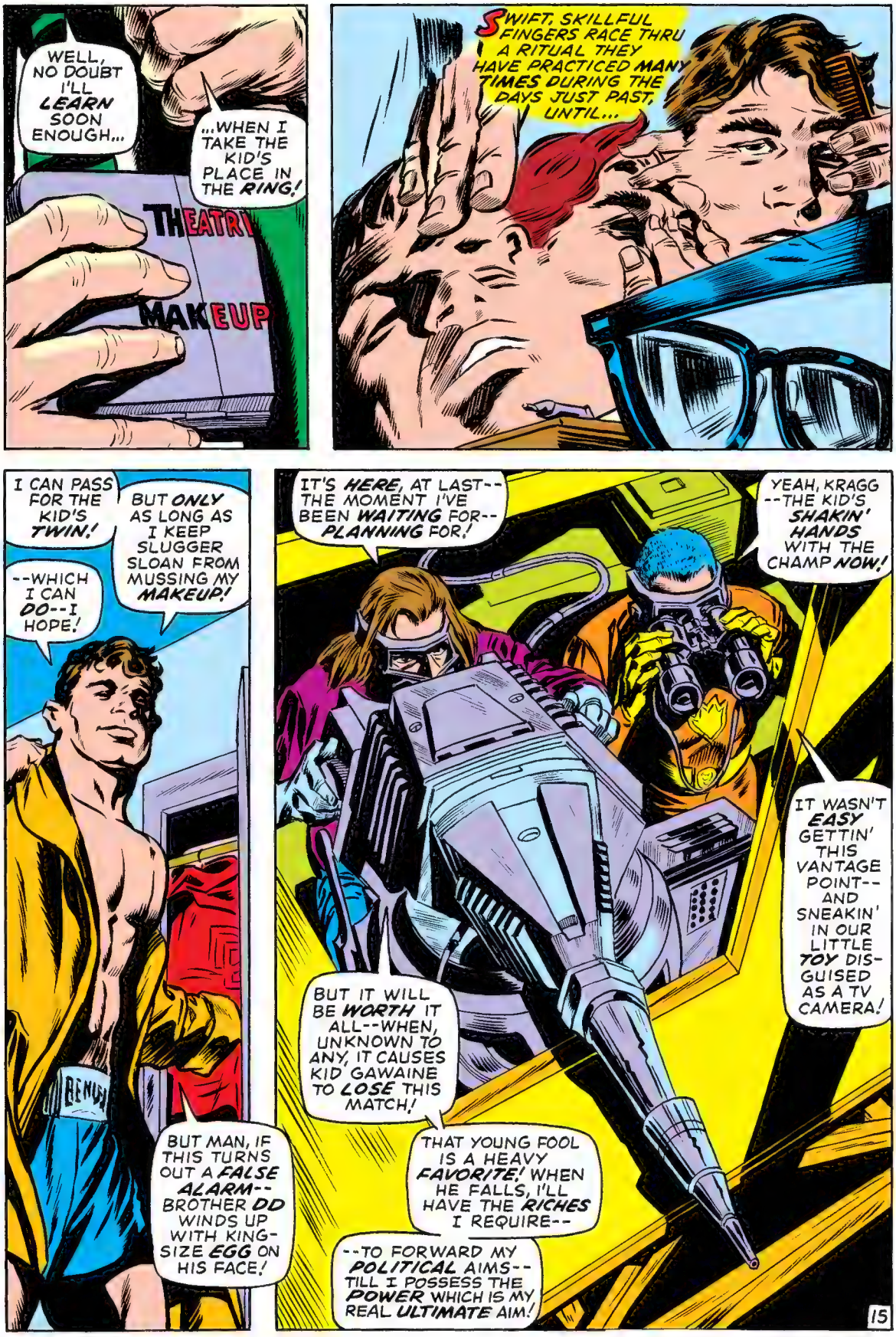

AW, ONE LITTLE BUMP ON THE HEAD WON'T HURT 'IM --MUCH!
GLAD TO --HEAR YOU-- SAY THAT--
IT KIND'A MAKES ME FEEL BETTER ABOUT EVERY-THING!
SWOK!
TALK BRAVE WHILE YA CAN, KID!
YA WON'T TALK SO MUCH--WITH A SWOLLEN JAW!
HOLD 'IM-- WHILE I FINISH 'IM!
THREE AGAINST ONE AGAIN, EH,? THAT SEEMS TO BE YOU BOYS' FAVORITE ODDS!
I TAKE IT YOU'LL SPARE ME THE USELESS DENIALS THAT YOU'RE SOME OF KRAGG'S LITTLE PLAYMATES!?
KPOK!
WRAM!

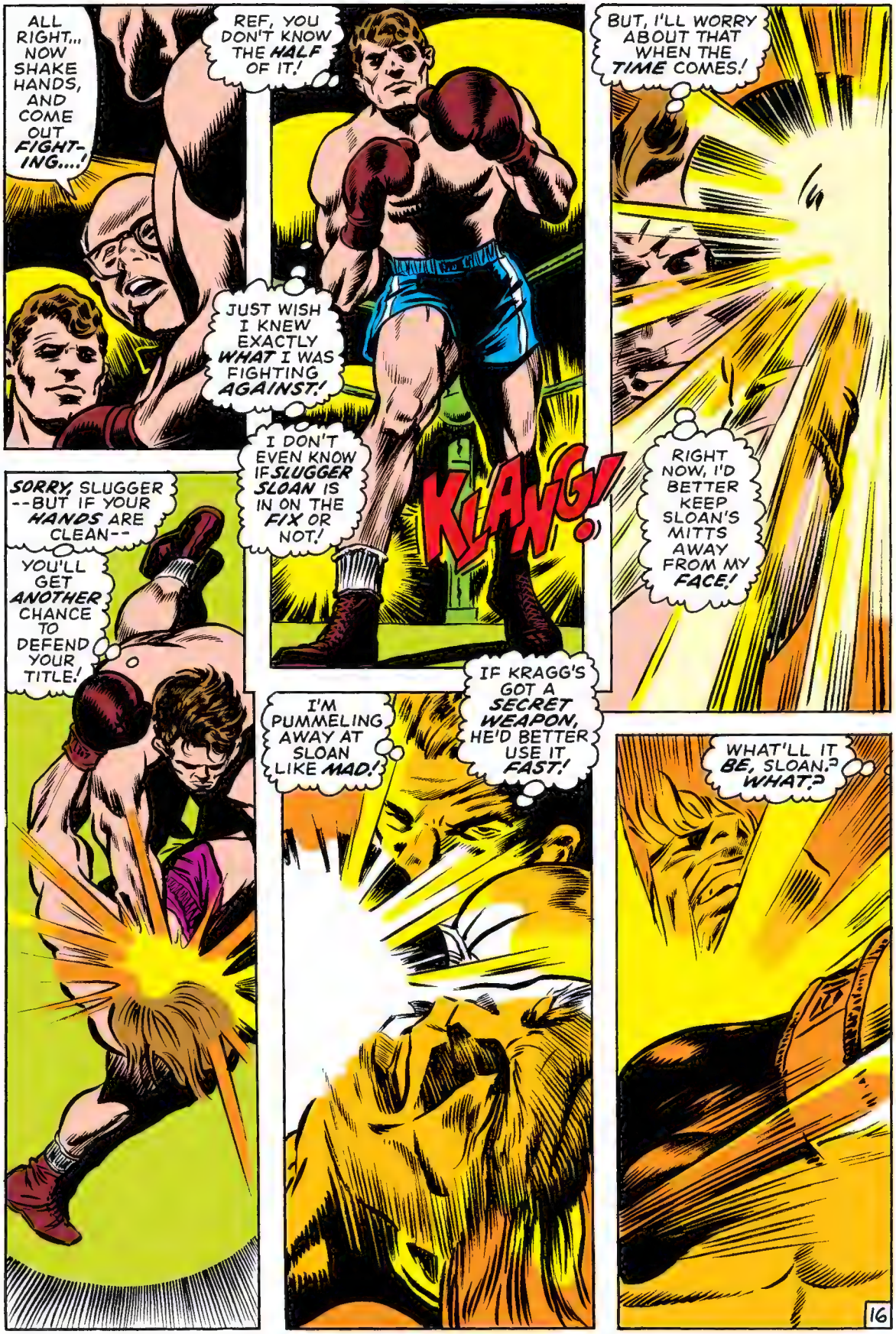

WE AINT ADMITTIN', NOTHIN! DAREDEVIL!
WHAT'S MORE, WE AINT GOT NO ORDERS ABOUT NOT MAKIN' YOU NO STRETCHER CASE!
THRAK!
FRIEND, AT THIS STAGE, I'M NOT SURE IF I SHOULD SLUG YOU TO HELP KID GAWAINE...
...OR TO STOP YOU FROM BUTCHERING ANY MORE OF THE KING'S ENGLISH!
UH OH! ANOTHER ONE... RUSHING AT ME FROM MY RIGHT!
GOOD OL' RADAR SENSE! IT'S LIKE HAVING EYES IN THE BACK OF MY HEAD!
SOMETIMES I EVEN THINK I WOULDN'T GIVE ALL THIS UP IN ORDER TO HAVE MY SIGHT BACK AGAIN!
YEAH... SOMETIMES....!
NOW WHAT MADE ME THINK OF THAT IN THE MIDDLE OF THIS FREE-FOR-ALL?
THAT WAY LIES MADNESS, DD! BACK TO BUSINESS!
YOU OKAY, KID?
MY BUDDY MATT MURDOCK ASKED ME TO KEEP AN EYE ON YOU!
THAT EXPLAINS A LOT OF QUESTIONS I WAS GOING TO ASK YOU, MASKED MAN!
11

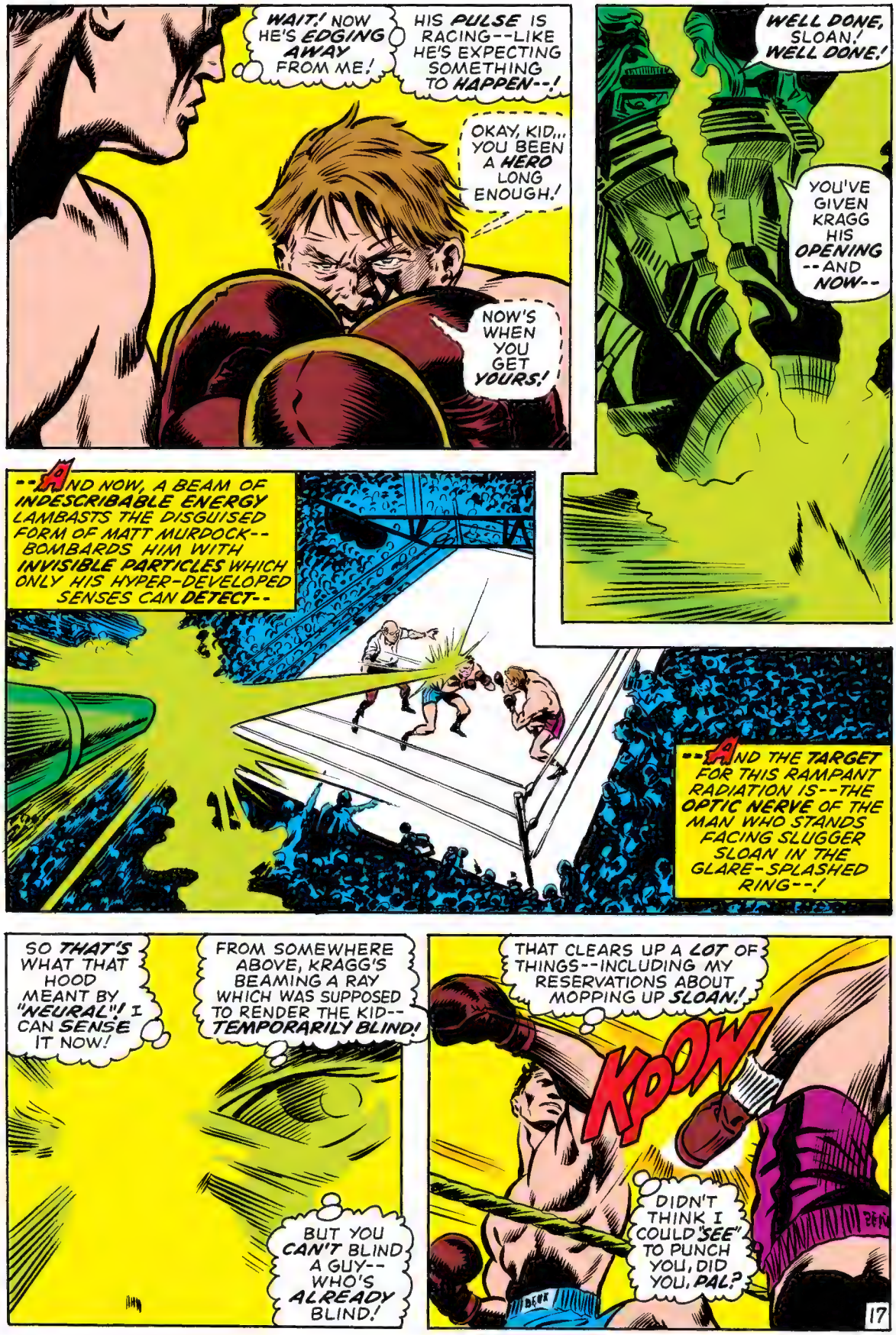

Y'KNOW, IN A WAY, I OWE THOSE STUMBLE-BUMS A VOTE OF THANKS!
I HAD A DECISION TO MAKE--AND THEY HELPED ME MAKE IT!
UNLESS I MISS MY GUESS, IT'LL BE THE RIGHT ONE!
AND BY THE BY--
--GOOD LUCK ON THAT MATCH YOU'VE GOT COMING UP!
WITH THAT RIGHT HOOK OF YOURS--YOU'RE A SHOO-IN!
YES, THAT'S WHAT I SAID... BUT NOW THAT THE BIG NIGHT IS HERE, I'M NOT SO SURE!
DID SOME SLEUTHING AROUND...AND, UNDER A BUNCH OF ALIASES, KRAGG'S CROWD HAS A BUNDLE RIDING ON THE KID'S OPPONENT!
CHAMPIONSHIP BOUT TONI
SLUGGER SLOAN
VS. KID GAWAINE
THAT'S GOT TO MEAN... A FIX!
FARE'S $1.80? HERE... KEEP THE CHANGE!
TAXI
OUT OF A WHOLE $2 BILL? YER ALL HEART, MAC!
12

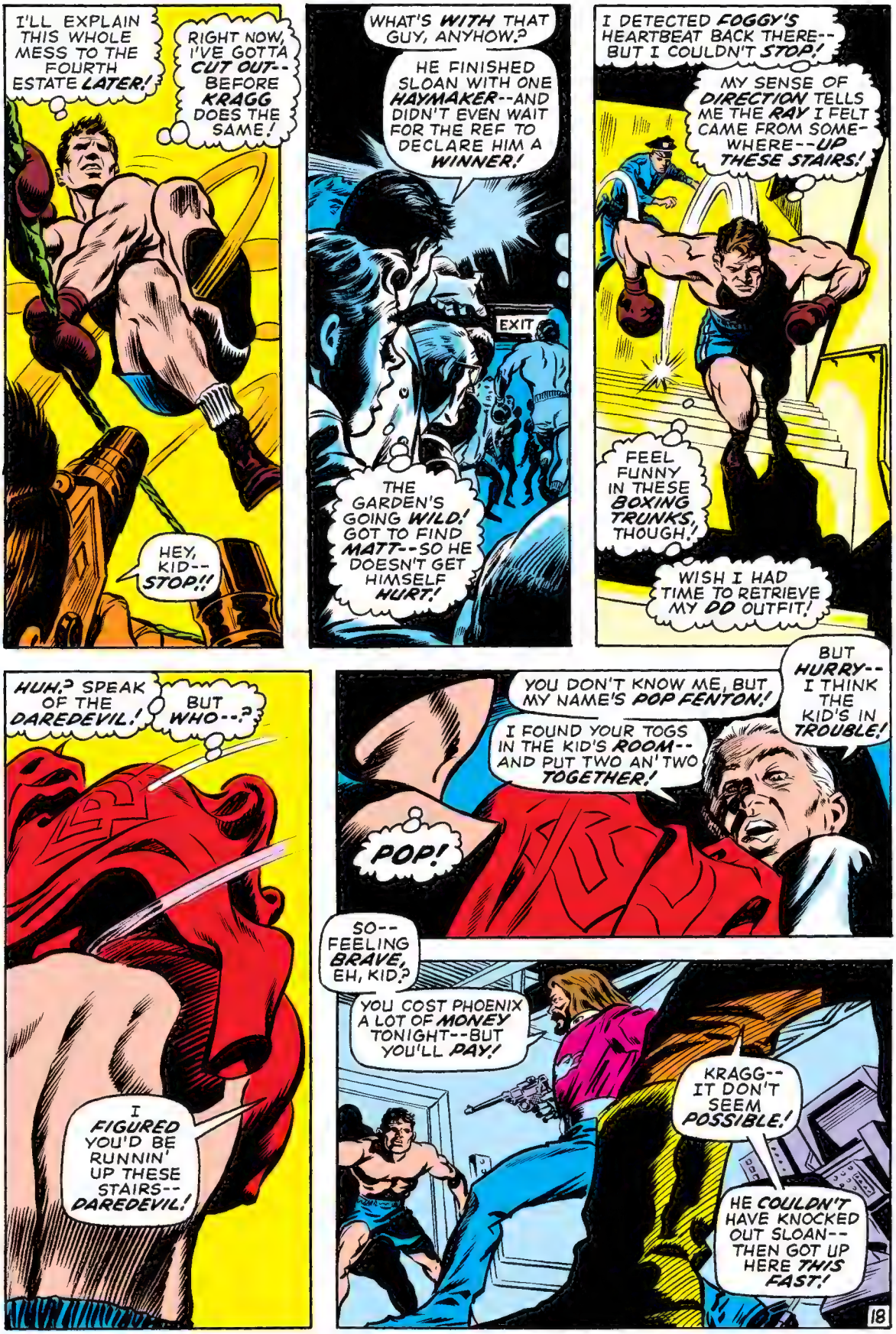

TOO BAD YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO SEE THIS FIGHT, MATT!
I'M JUST GLAD I GOT BACK FROM FLORIDA IN TIME FOR IT, FOGGY!
I GOT US FRONT ROW SEATS, TOO--SO I CAN MAKE SURE EVERYTHING'S ON THE LEVEL!
BESIDES, YOU'RE THE BEST SPORTS ANNOUNCER SINCE BILL STERN!
CAN'T FORGET THAT CRYPTIC NOTE I RECEIVED FROM POP FENTON!
HE CLAIMED KRAGG HAD FOUND A SECRET WAY TO FIX THE FIGHT--WITHOUT THE KID'S HELP!
HERE'S OUR SEATS, MATT!
GOOD! 'CAUSE NOW, I'VE GOT TO TRY THE GREATEST SUPER-FEAT OF MY CAREER!
AND I'VE GOT TO DO IT--WITHOUT FOGGY'S SUSPECTING!
WE'RE RINGSIDE... WHERE I'LL BET KRAGG HAS A FEW HOODS STATIONED!
IT SEEMS HOPELESS, AND YET...
GOT TO LOCATE THEM AURALLY... OVER THE BABEL OF THE CROWD!
WAIT! I THINK ...YES!
13


WHEN'S KRAGG GONNA TURN ON THAT NEURAL-WHATCHAMACALL-IT GIZMO OF HIS?
I WANNA SEE THE LOOK ON THE KID'S FACE WHEN--
CAN IT, PAL! SOMEBODY MIGHT BE LISTENIN'!
YOU KIDDIN'? EVEN I CAN'T HEAR ME OVER ALL THIS NOISE!
BUT I COULD, CHUM...AND I HOPE YOU LIVE TO REGRET THAT FACT!
I'LL BE BACK, FOGGY! TOO STUFFY IN HERE!
WELL... IF YOU INSIST! BUT BE CAREFUL, HEAR?
I'LL DO THAT!
EXTREMISTS--AND THE MEN WHO SERVE THEM--ARE LIKE A CANCER, THREATENING THE LIFE OF EVERY SOCIETY!
THEY'RE INEVITABLE... AND THEY'RE DANGEROUS!
THIS PHOENIX BUNCH WILL STOP AT NOTHING TO ACQUIRE MONEY FOR THEIR OWN ENDS!
DON'T KNOW IF I CAN STOP THEM OR NOT...BUT I'VE GOT TO TRY!
WELL, I'VE MADE IT THIS FAR! NOW, IF ONLY--
AHH... THERE'S THE KID'S VOICE...!
LOCKER
...LOOK, KRAGG, I'LL TELL YA ONE LAST TIME!
I NEVER THREW A FIGHT BEFORE, AND I'M NOT STARTIN' NOW!
NOTHING'S GONNA STOP ME FROM GIVIN' THE FIGHT OF MY LIFE OUT THERE TONIGHT...SO FLAKE OFF!
KID GAWAIN
SORRY, KID--BUT FOR ONCE YOU'RE DEAD WRONG!
SOMETHING IS GOING TO STOP YOU--AND THIS TIME I'M AFRAID IT'S ME!
UNNHH
PRESSED THE RIGHT NERVE IN HIS NECK... AND HE'S DOWN FOR THE COUNT!
ALL OF WHICH REMINDS ME...
...I WISH I KNEW WHAT KIND OF "NEURAL" GIZMO THAT GUNNIE WAS TALKING ABOUT!
14

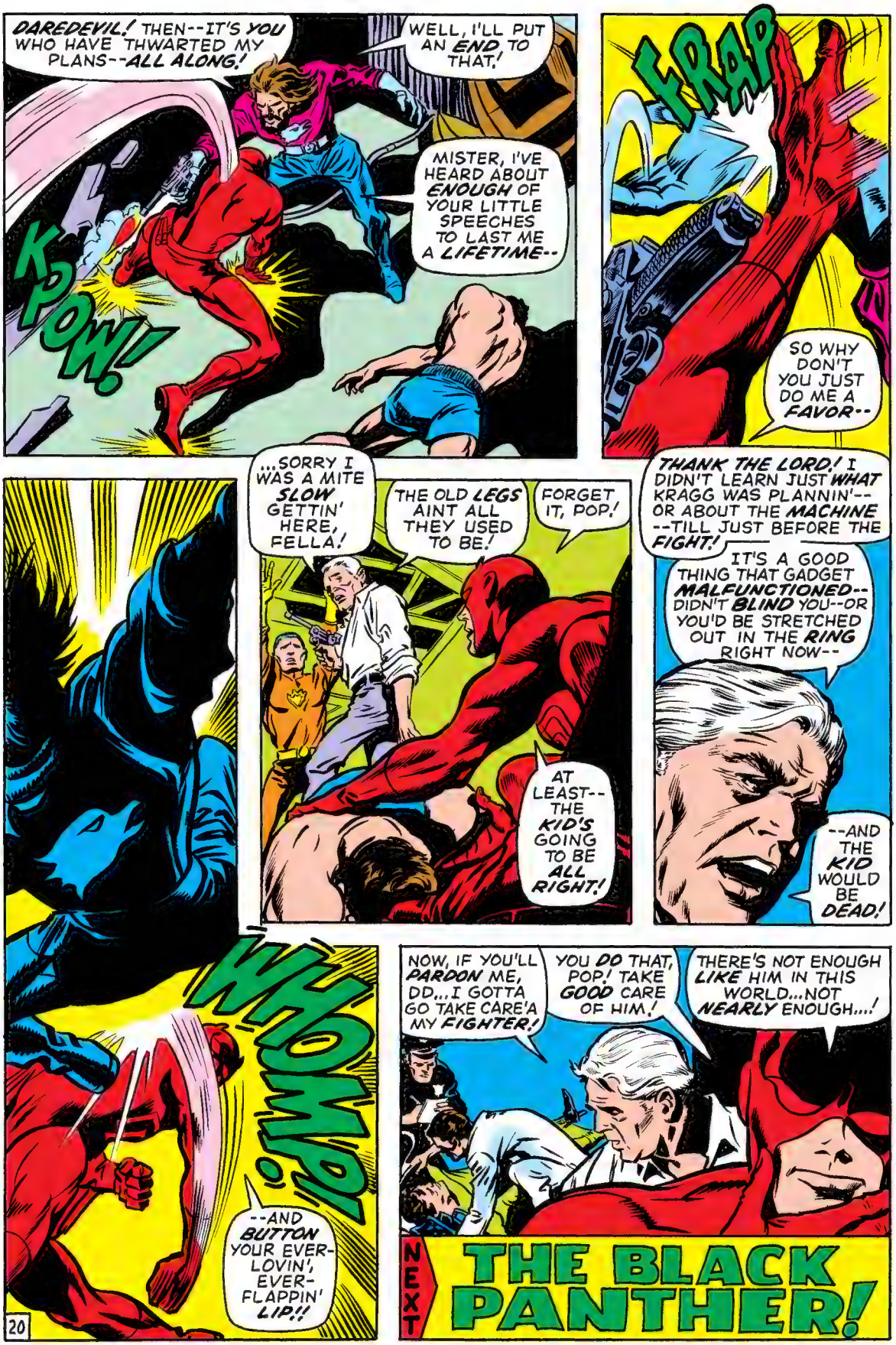

WELL, NO DOUBT I'LL LEARN SOON ENOUGH...
...WHEN I TAKE THE KID'S PLACE IN THE RING!
THEATRI
MAKEUP
SWIFT, SKILLFUL FINGERS RACE THRU A RITUAL THEY HAVE PRACTICED MANY TIMES DURING THE DAYS JUST PAST, UNTIL...
I CAN PASS FOR THE KID'S TWIN!
BUT ONLY AS LONG AS I KEEP SLUGGER SLOAN FROM MUSSING MY MAKEUP!
--WHICH I CAN DO--I HOPE!
BENGAL
BUT MAN, IF THIS TURNS OUT A FALSE ALARM--BROTHER DD WINDS UP WITH KING-SIZE EGG ON HIS FACE!
IT'S HERE, AT LAST--THE MOMENT I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR--PLANNING FOR!
YEAH, KRAGG --THE KID'S SHAKIN' HANDS WITH THE CHAMP NOW!
IT WASN'T EASY GETTIN' THIS VANTAGE POINT--AND SNEAKIN' IN OUR LITTLE TOY DISGUISED AS A TV CAMERA!
BUT IT WILL BE WORTH IT ALL--WHEN, UNKNOWN TO ANY, IT CAUSES KID GAWAINE TO LOSE THIS MATCH!
THAT YOUNG FOOL IS A HEAVY FAVORITE! WHEN HE FALLS, I'LL HAVE THE RICHES I REQUIRE--
--TO FORWARD MY POLITICAL AIMS--TILL I POSSESS THE POWER WHICH IS MY REAL ULTIMATE AIM!

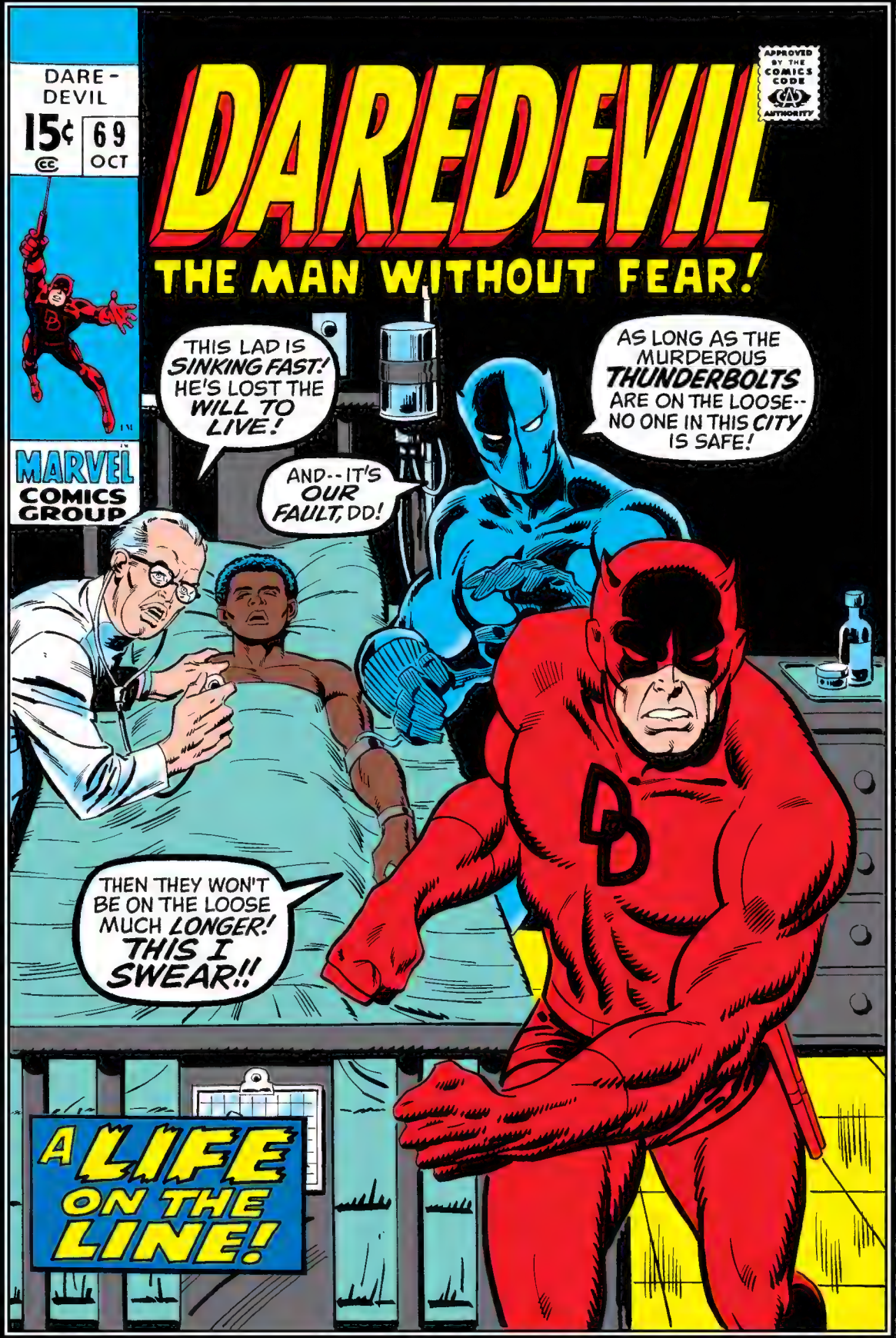

ALL RIGHT... NOW SHAKE HANDS, AND COME OUT FIGHTING....!
REF, YOU DON'T KNOW THE HALF OF IT!
JUST WISH I KNEW EXACTLY WHAT I WAS FIGHTING AGAINST!
I DON'T EVEN KNOW IF SLUGGER SLOAN IS IN ON THE FIX OR NOT!
KLANG!
BUT, I'LL WORRY ABOUT THAT WHEN THE TIME COMES!
RIGHT NOW, I'D BETTER KEEP SLOAN'S MITTS AWAY FROM MY FACE!
SORRY, SLUGGER --BUT IF YOUR HANDS ARE CLEAN--
YOU'LL GET ANOTHER CHANCE TO DEFEND YOUR TITLE!
I'M PUMMELING AWAY AT SLOAN LIKE MAD!
IF KRAGG'S GOT A SECRET WEAPON, HE'D BETTER USE IT FAST!
WHAT'LL IT BE, SLOAN? WHAT?


WAIT! NOW HE'S EDGING AWAY FROM ME!
HIS PULSE IS RACING--LIKE HE'S EXPECTING SOMETHING TO HAPPEN--!
OKAY, KID... YOU BEEN A HERO LONG ENOUGH!
NOW'S WHEN YOU GET YOURS!
WELL DONE, SLOAN! WELL DONE!
YOU'VE GIVEN KRAGG HIS OPENING --AND NOW--
--AND NOW, A BEAM OF INDESCRIBABLE ENERGY LAMBASTS THE DISGUISED FORM OF MATT MURDOCK-- BOMBARDS HIM WITH INVISIBLE PARTICLES WHICH ONLY HIS HYPER-DEVELOPED SENSES CAN DETECT--
--AND THE TARGET FOR THIS RAMPANT RADIATION IS--THE OPTIC NERVE OF THE MAN WHO STANDS FACING SLUGGER SLOAN IN THE GLARE-SPLASHED RING--!
SO THAT'S WHAT THAT HOOD MEANT BY "NEURAL"! I CAN SENSE IT NOW!
FROM SOMEWHERE ABOVE, KRAGG'S BEAMING A RAY WHICH WAS SUPPOSED TO RENDER THE KID-- TEMPORARILY BLIND!
BUT YOU CAN'T BLIND A GUY-- WHO'S ALREADY BLIND!
THAT CLEARS UP A LOT OF THINGS--INCLUDING MY RESERVATIONS ABOUT MOPPING UP SLOAN!
KPOW
DIDN'T THINK I COULD "SEE" TO PUNCH YOU, DID YOU, PAL?
17


I'LL EXPLAIN THIS WHOLE MESS TO THE FOURTH ESTATE LATER!
RIGHT NOW, I'VE GOTTA CUT OUT-- BEFORE KRAGG DOES THE SAME!
HEY, KID-- STOP!!
WHAT'S WITH THAT GUY, ANYHOW?
HE FINISHED SLOAN WITH ONE HAYMAKER--AND DIDN'T EVEN WAIT FOR THE REF TO DECLARE HIM A WINNER!
EXIT
THE GARDEN'S GOING WILD! GOT TO FIND MATT--SO HE DOESN'T GET HIMSELF HURT!
I DETECTED FOGGY'S HEARTBEAT BACK THERE-- BUT I COULDN'T STOP!
MY SENSE OF DIRECTION TELLS ME THE RAY I FELT CAME FROM SOMEWHERE--UP THESE STAIRS!
FEEL FUNNY IN THESE BOXING TRUNKS, THOUGH!
WISH I HAD TIME TO RETRIEVE MY DD OUTFIT!
HUH? SPEAK OF THE DAREDEVIL!
BUT WHO--?
I FIGURED YOU'D BE RUNNIN' UP THESE STAIRS-- DAREDEVIL!
YOU DON'T KNOW ME, BUT MY NAME'S POP FENTON!
I FOUND YOUR TOGS IN THE KID'S ROOM-- AND PUT TWO AN' TWO TOGETHER!
BUT HURRY-- I THINK THE KID'S IN TROUBLE!
POP!
SO-- FEELING BRAVE, EH, KID?
YOU COST PHOENIX A LOT OF MONEY TONIGHT--BUT YOU'LL PAY!
KRAGG-- IT DON'T SEEM POSSIBLE!
HE COULDN'T HAVE KNOCKED OUT SLOAN-- THEN GOT UP HERE THIS FAST!

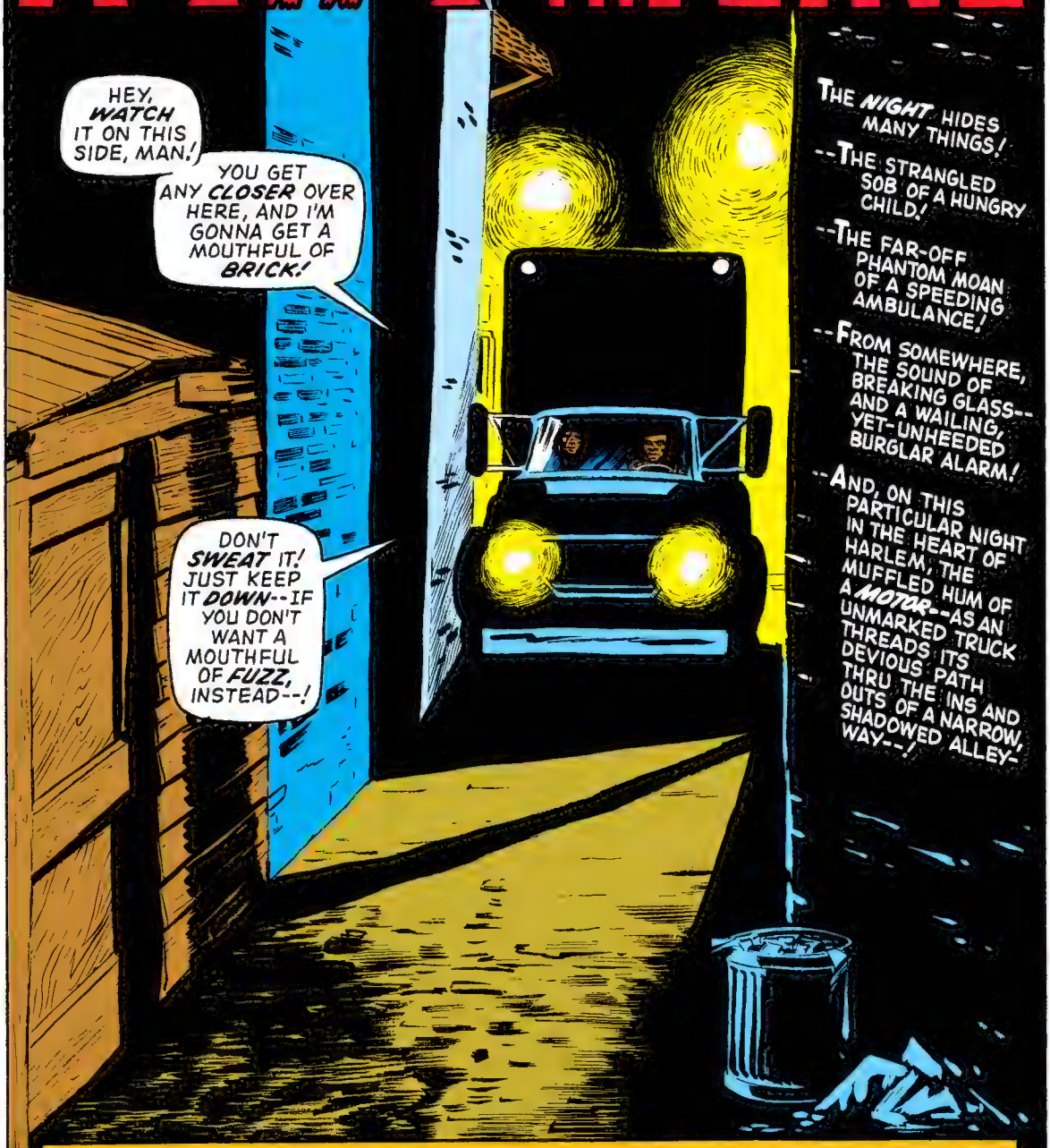
YOUR FLUNKY'S RIGHT, KRAGG! THAT WASN'T ME IN THE RING!
FACT IS, HERE'S WHERE I THROW MY FIRST PUNCH OF THE NIGHT--!
WHOEVER IT WAS-- THE MACHINE I STOLE DIDN'T MAKE HIM LOSE THE FIGHT!
BUT, HERE IS WHERE YOU LOSE--
KRAAK!
--YOUR LIFE!!
UNNHHH
I WAS--A GOOD FIGHTER, KRAGG!
YOU TRIED-- TO MAKE ME A PHONY-- LIKE YOU--!
GET BACK, YOU FOOL! WON'T EVEN BULLETS STOP YOU?
KRAK!
IF THAT MAN DIES, KRAGG--SO HELP ME--
YOU MAY NEVER LEAVE THIS ROOM ALIVE!!
THWAM!
19


DAREDEVIL! THEN--IT'S YOU WHO HAVE THWARTED MY PLANS--ALL ALONG!
WELL, I'LL PUT AN END TO THAT!
MISTER, I'VE HEARD ABOUT ENOUGH OF YOUR LITTLE SPEECHES TO LAST ME A LIFETIME--
KPOW!
FRAP
SO WHY DON'T YOU JUST DO ME A FAVOR--
...SORRY I WAS A MITE SLOW GETTIN' HERE, FELLA!
THE OLD LEGS AINT ALL THEY USED TO BE!
FORGET IT, POP!
AT LEAST--THE KID'S GOING TO BE ALL RIGHT!
THANK THE LORD! I DIDN'T LEARN JUST WHAT KRAGG WAS PLANNIN'--OR ABOUT THE MACHINE --TILL JUST BEFORE THE FIGHT!
IT'S A GOOD THING THAT GADGET MALFUNCTIONED--DIDN'T BLIND YOU--OR YOU'D BE STRETCHED OUT IN THE RING RIGHT NOW--
--AND THE KID WOULD BE DEAD!
WHOMP!
--AND BUTTON YOUR EVER-LOVIN', EVER-FLAPPIN' LIP!!
NOW, IF YOU'LL PARDON ME, DD...I GOTTA GO TAKE CARE'A MY FIGHTER!
YOU DO THAT, POP! TAKE GOOD CARE OF HIM!
THERE'S NOT ENOUGH LIKE HIM IN THIS WORLD...NOT NEARLY ENOUGH....!
NEXT
THE BLACK PANTHER!
20


DARE-DEVIL
15¢
69
OCT
DAREDEVIL
THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR!
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
MARVEL COMICS GROUP
THIS LAD IS SINKING FAST! HE'S LOST THE WILL TO LIVE!
AND--IT'S OUR FAULT, DD!
AS LONG AS THE MURDEROUS THUNDERBOLTS ARE ON THE LOOSE--NO ONE IN THIS CITY IS SAFE!
THEN THEY WON'T BE ON THE LOOSE MUCH LONGER! THIS I SWEAR!!
A LIFE ON THE LINE!

DAREDEVIL, THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR!™

A LIFE ON THE LINE


HEY, WATCH IT ON THIS SIDE, MAN!
YOU GET ANY CLOSER OVER HERE, AND I'M GONNA GET A MOUTHFUL OF BRICK!
DON'T SWEAT IT! JUST KEEP IT DOWN--IF YOU DON'T WANT A MOUTHFUL OF FUZZ, INSTEAD--!
THE NIGHT HIDES MANY THINGS!
--THE STRANGLED SOB OF A HUNGRY CHILD!
--THE FAR-OFF PHANTOM MOAN OF A SPEEDING AMBULANCE!
--FROM SOMEWHERE, THE SOUND OF BREAKING GLASS--AND A WAILING, YET-UNHEEDED BURGLAR ALARM!
--AND, ON THIS PARTICULAR NIGHT IN THE HEART OF HARLEM, THE MUFFLED HUM OF A MOTOR--AS AN UNMARKED TRUCK THREADS ITS DEVIOUS PATH THRU THE INS AND OUTS OF A NARROW, SHADOWED ALLEY-WAY--!

STAN LEE *EDITOR* • ROY THOMAS *WRITER* • GENE COLAN *ARTIST* • SYD SHORES *INKER* • ARTIE SIMEK *LETTERER*

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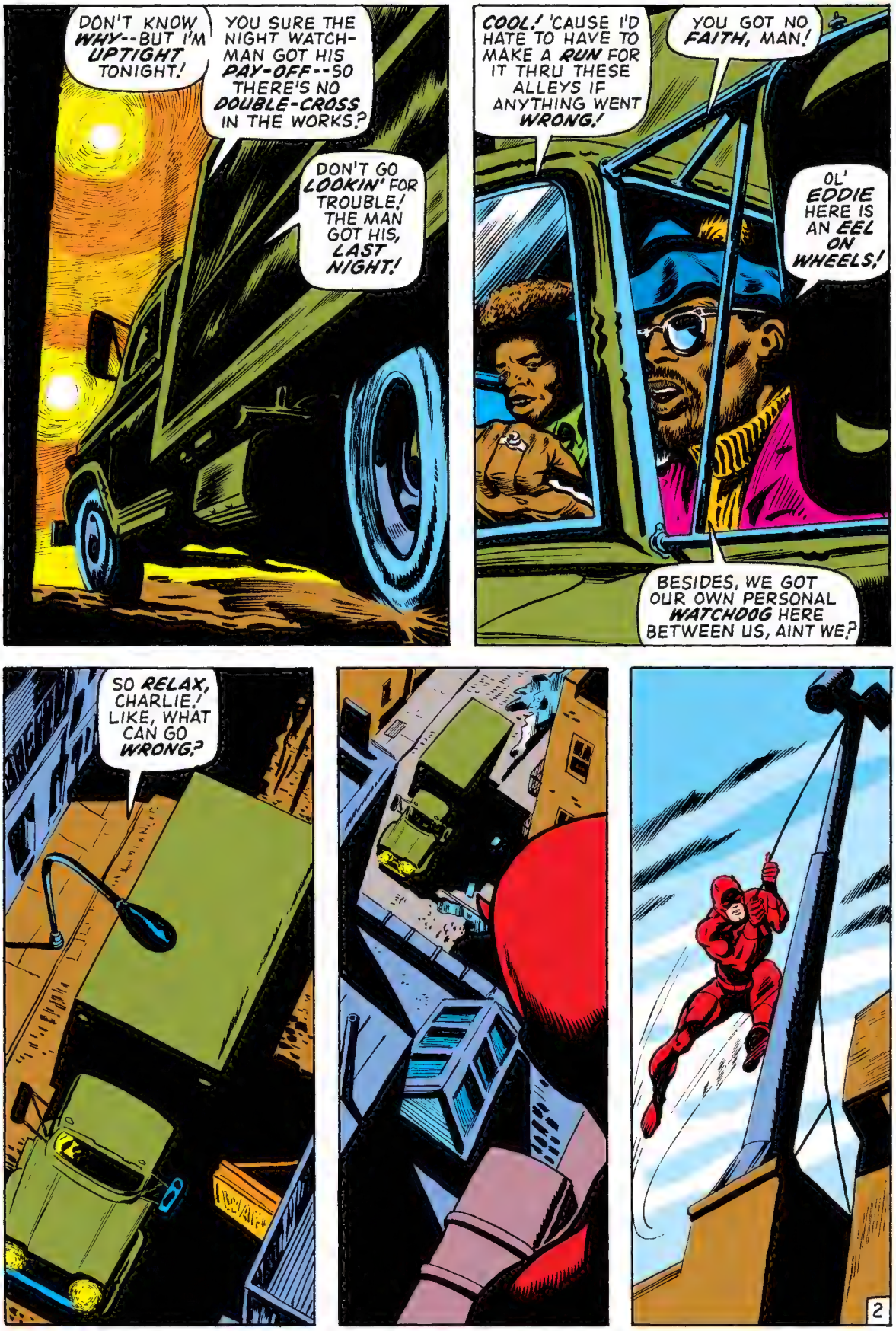
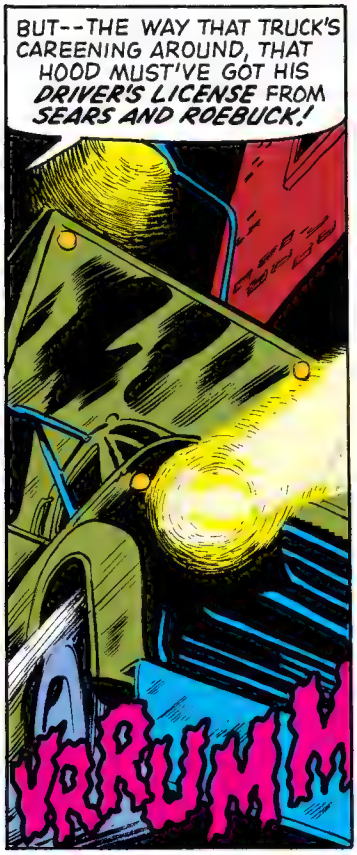
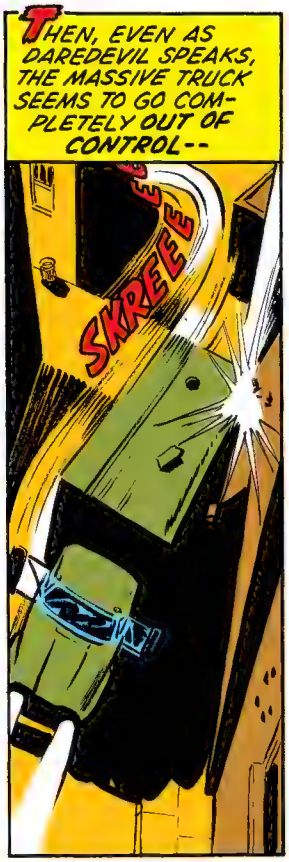
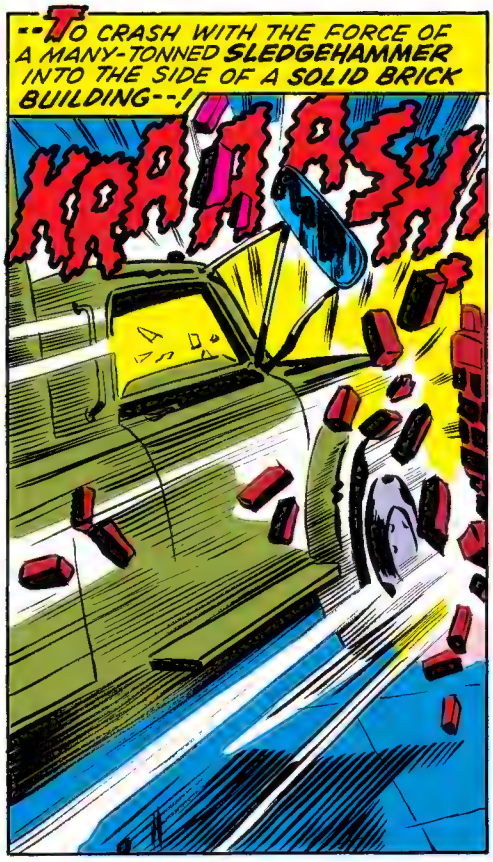

DON'T KNOW WHY--BUT I'M UPTIGHT TONIGHT!
YOU SURE THE NIGHT WATCHMAN GOT HIS PAY-OFF--SO THERE'S NO DOUBLE-CROSS IN THE WORKS?
DON'T GO LOOKIN' FOR TROUBLE! THE MAN GOT HIS, LAST NIGHT!
COOL! 'CAUSE I'D HATE TO HAVE TO MAKE A RUN FOR IT THRU THESE ALLEYS IF ANYTHING WENT WRONG!
YOU GOT NO FAITH, MAN!
OL' EDDIE HERE IS AN EEL ON WHEELS!
BESIDES, WE GOT OUR OWN PERSONAL WATCHDOG HERE BETWEEN US, AINT WE?
SO RELAX, CHARLIE! LIKE, WHAT CAN GO WRONG?
2

COAST CLEAR, BABY? I THOUGHT I HEARD SOMETHIN' JUST NOW!
IT'S CLEAR! BUT GET A MOVE ON, WILLYA?
I DON'T LIKE THIS SET-UP! IT'S TOO RISKY!
LISTEN TO THE MAN! TAKES OUR DOUGH, AND THEN STARTS GRIPIN'!
SERVE 'IM RIGHT IF WE TOOK OUR BREAD BACK-- AND GRABBED THE STUFF FOR FREE!
THEY SAY THE BEST THINGS IN LIFE ARE FREE, FELLA--
--INCLUDING A ONE-WAY TICKET TO THE STATE PEN!
KRAASH!
HOLY CRUD! IT'S-- DAREDEVIL!
I TOLD YOU I HEARD SOMETHIN', MAN! I TOLD YA!!
3

YOU FELLAS WILL HAVE TO COME UP WITH BETTER DIALOGUE THAN THAT--OR I'LL DOZE OFF BEFORE I FINISH BUSTIN' YOU!
YOU COULD'VE CAUGHT THEM TWO AWAY FROM THE WAREHOUSE, MASKED MAN, AND I WOULDN'T HAVE CARED!
BUT I'M CLEAN UP TILL NOW--AND MY RECORD'S STAYIN' THAT WAY!
SKIPPING STACK 3
-MMMFF!-
WHOP!
MISTER, IF THERE'S ANYTHING I HATE WORSE THAN A CROOK--
--IT'S A CROOK WITH A BADGE--ANY BADGE!
SNEAKING UP BEHIND ME, HUH? WELL, DON'T KNOCK YOURSELF OUT ON MY ACCOUNT, GUY!
KBONK!
...AND BABY MAKES THREE!
BT OK!
THERE! THAT OUGHT TO--UH-OH!
LOOKS LIKE THEY HAD A LOOKOUT MAN IN THE TRUCK!
HE'S TAKING OFF--LIKE A BAT OUT OF HELSINKI!
4

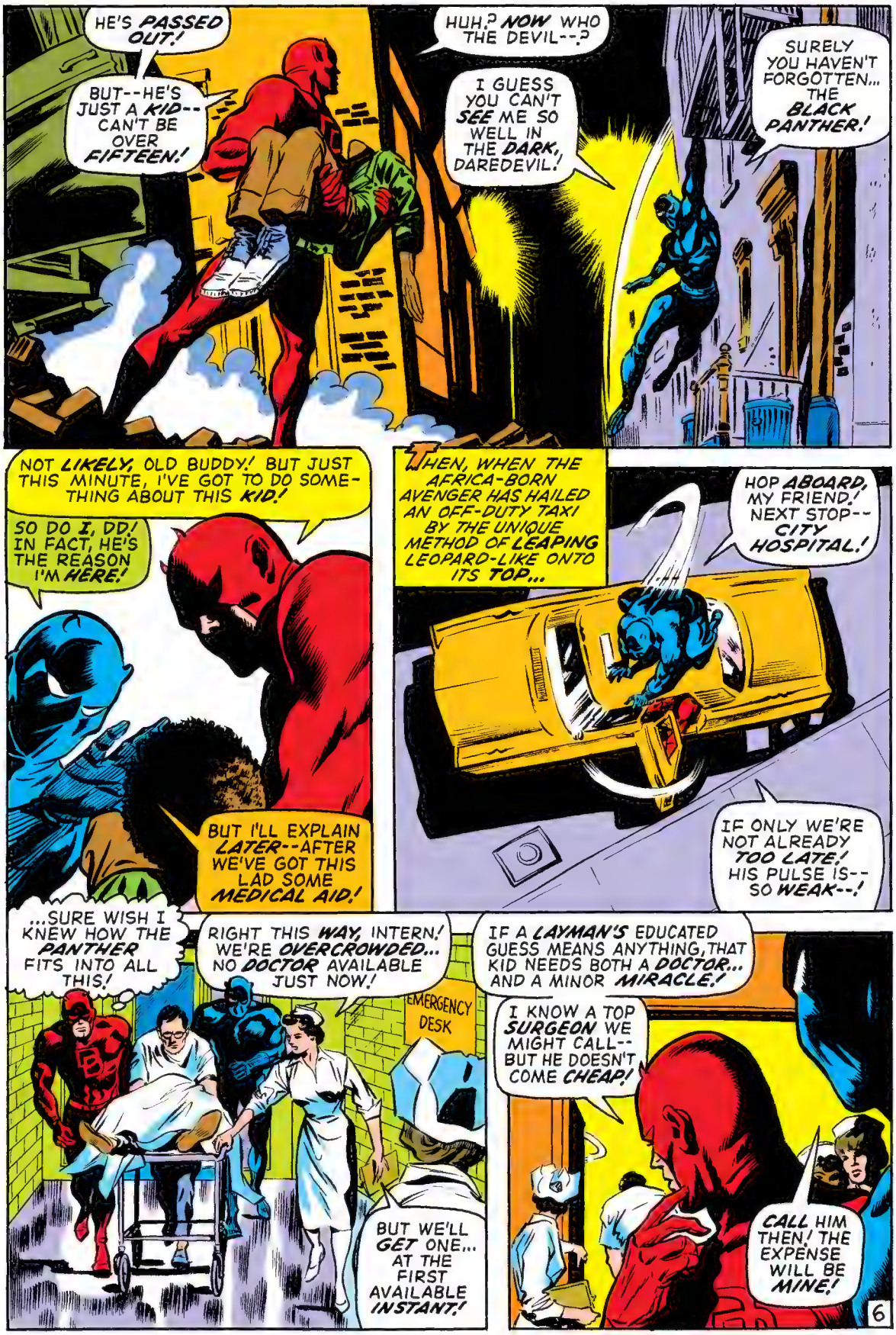

BUT--THE WAY THAT TRUCK'S CAREENING AROUND, THAT HOOD MUST'VE GOT HIS DRIVER'S LICENSE FROM SEARS AND ROEBUCK!
VRUMM

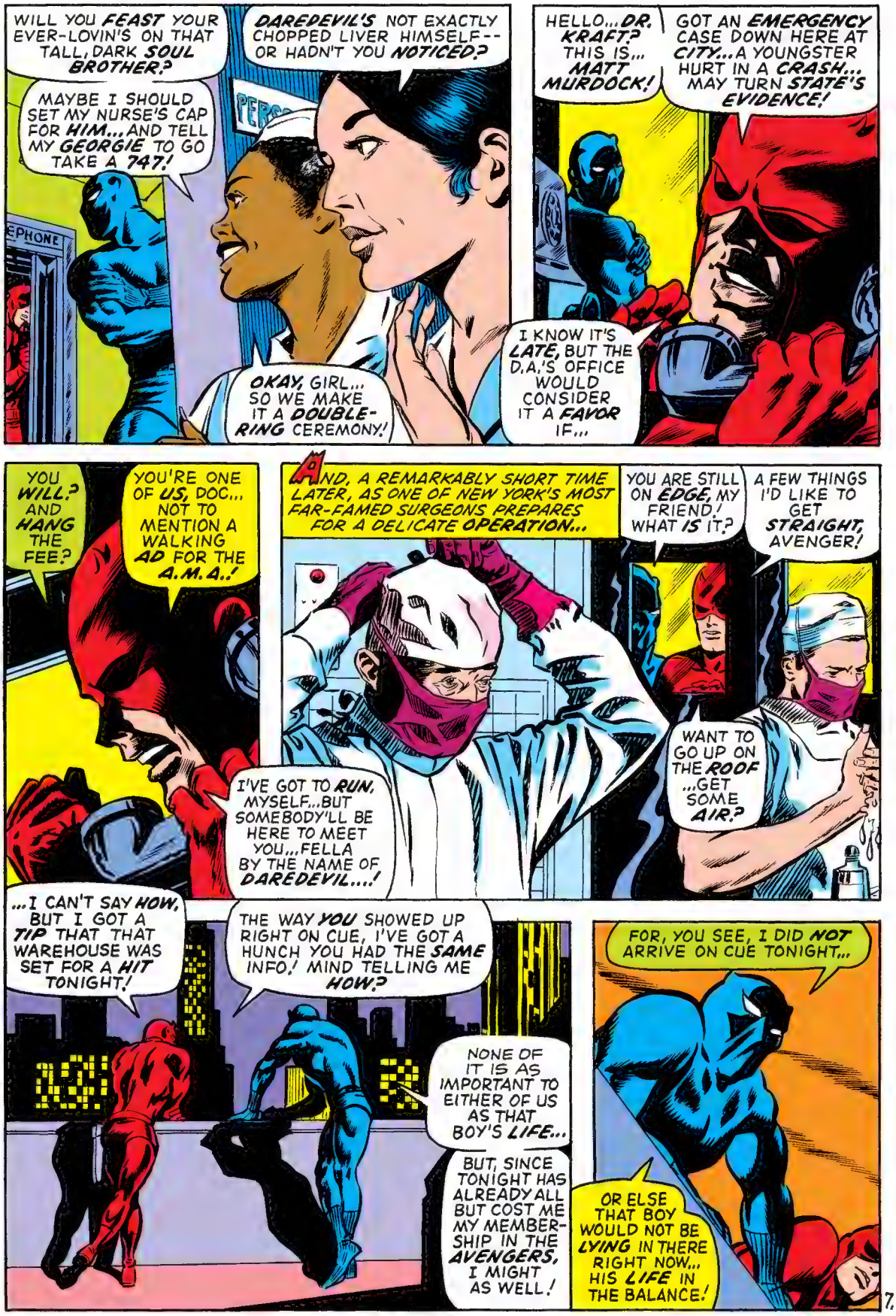

THEN, EVEN AS DAREDEVIL SPEAKS, THE MASSIVE TRUCK SEEMS TO GO COMPLETELY OUT OF CONTROL--
SKREEE


--TO CRASH WITH THE FORCE OF A MANY-TONNED SLEDGEHAMMER INTO THE SIDE OF A SOLID BRICK BUILDING--!
KRAASH!

I CAN STILL DETECT A HEARTBEAT COMING FROM THE WRECK--BUT IT'S A WEAK ONE!
WELL, WHOEVER'S INSIDE THERE, IT'S A SURE BET HE HAD IT COMING!

BILLY--YOU GOTTA HELP ME, BILLY--IT HURTS--!

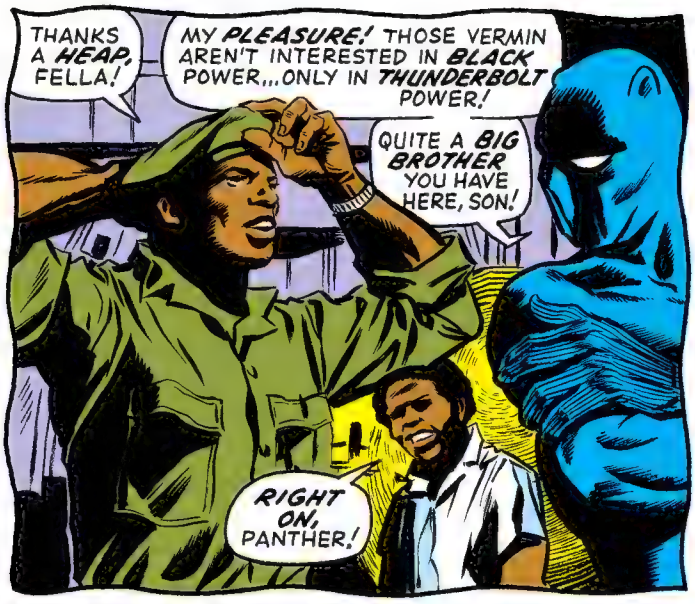

HE'S PASSED OUT!
BUT--HE'S JUST A KID--CAN'T BE OVER FIFTEEN!
HUH.? NOW WHO THE DEVIL--?
I GUESS YOU CAN'T SEE ME SO WELL IN THE DARK, DAREDEVIL!
SURELY YOU HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN... THE BLACK PANTHER!
NOT LIKELY, OLD BUDDY! BUT JUST THIS MINUTE, I'VE GOT TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT THIS KID!
SO DO I, DD! IN FACT, HE'S THE REASON I'M HERE!
BUT I'LL EXPLAIN LATER--AFTER WE'VE GOT THIS LAD SOME MEDICAL AID!
THEN, WHEN THE AFRICA-BORN AVENGER HAS HAILED AN OFF-DUTY TAXI BY THE UNIQUE METHOD OF LEAPING LEOPARD-LIKE ONTO ITS TOP...
HOP ABOARD, MY FRIEND! NEXT STOP--CITY HOSPITAL!
IF ONLY WE'RE NOT ALREADY TOO LATE! HIS PULSE IS--SO WEAK--!
...SURE WISH I KNEW HOW THE PANTHER FITS INTO ALL THIS!
RIGHT THIS WAY, INTERN! WE'RE OVERCROWDED... NO DOCTOR AVAILABLE JUST NOW!
EMERGENCY DESK
BUT WE'LL GET ONE... AT THE FIRST AVAILABLE INSTANT!
IF A LAYMAN'S EDUCATED GUESS MEANS ANYTHING, THAT KID NEEDS BOTH A DOCTOR... AND A MINOR MIRACLE!
I KNOW A TOP SURGEON WE MIGHT CALL--BUT HE DOESN'T COME CHEAP!
CALL HIM THEN! THE EXPENSE WILL BE MINE!
6


WILL YOU FEAST YOUR EVER-LOVIN'S ON THAT TALL, DARK SOUL BROTHER?
DAREDEVIL'S NOT EXACTLY CHOPPED LIVER HIMSELF--OR HADN'T YOU NOTICED?
MAYBE I SHOULD SET MY NURSE'S CAP FOR HIM... AND TELL MY GEORGIE TO GO TAKE A 747!
EPHONE
OKAY, GIRL... SO WE MAKE IT A DOUBLE-RING CEREMONY!
HELLO... DR. KRAFT? THIS IS... MATT MURDOCK!
GOT AN EMERGENCY CASE DOWN HERE AT CITY... A YOUNGSTER HURT IN A CRASH... MAY TURN STATE'S EVIDENCE!
I KNOW IT'S LATE, BUT THE D.A.'S OFFICE WOULD CONSIDER IT A FAVOR IF...
YOU WILL? AND HANG THE FEE?
YOU'RE ONE OF US, DOC... NOT TO MENTION A WALKING AD FOR THE A.M.A.!
AND, A REMARKABLY SHORT TIME LATER, AS ONE OF NEW YORK'S MOST FAR-FAMED SURGEONS PREPARES FOR A DELICATE OPERATION...
YOU ARE STILL ON EDGE, MY FRIEND! WHAT IS IT?
A FEW THINGS I'D LIKE TO GET STRAIGHT, AVENGER!
I'VE GOT TO RUN, MYSELF... BUT SOMEBODY'LL BE HERE TO MEET YOU... FELLA BY THE NAME OF DAREDEVIL...!
WANT TO GO UP ON THE ROOF ...GET SOME AIR?
...I CAN'T SAY HOW, BUT I GOT A TIP THAT THAT WAREHOUSE WAS SET FOR A HIT TONIGHT!
THE WAY YOU SHOWED UP RIGHT ON CUE, I'VE GOT A HUNCH YOU HAD THE SAME INFO! MIND TELLING ME HOW?
NONE OF IT IS AS IMPORTANT TO EITHER OF US AS THAT BOY'S LIFE...
BUT, SINCE TONIGHT HAS ALREADY ALL BUT COST ME MY MEMBER-SHIP IN THE AVENGERS, I MIGHT AS WELL!
FOR, YOU SEE, I DID NOT ARRIVE ON CUE TONIGHT...
OR ELSE THAT BOY WOULD NOT BE LYING IN THERE RIGHT NOW... HIS LIFE IN THE BALANCE!

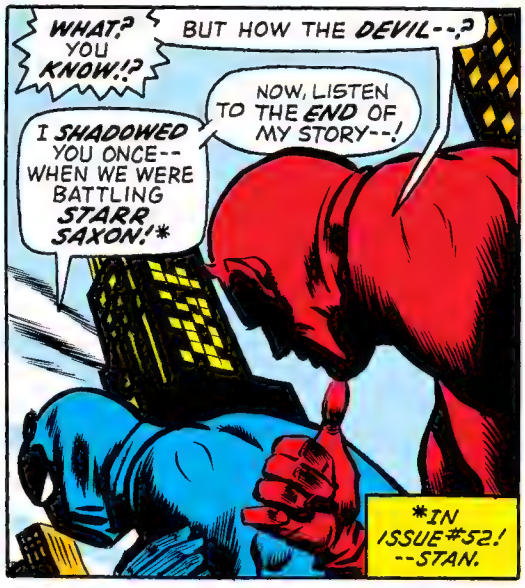
NO, I MOST DEFINITELY DID NOT ARRIVE ON CUE!
MY CUE WAS WEEKS AGO... AND, MAY GOD HAVE MERCY ON ME, I MISSED IT!
"FOR, THE YOUTH ON THAT OPERATING TABLE IS NAMED LONNIE CARVER...AND HE USED TO BE THE BRIGHTEST STUDENT OF A TEACHER FRIEND OF MINE...ONE LUKE CHARLES....!
HEY, LONNIE! WHY THE WALL-TO-WALL SMILE?
DON'T TELL ME JAMES BROWN'S NEW 45 JUST HIT #1.!?
THAT AINT EVEN CLOSE, TEACH!
I JUST GOT THE WORD MY BROTHER BILLY'S COMIN' HOME FROM THE BIG BAD WAR--AND I'M TRIPPIN'!
HISTORY OF THE
"THE BLACK PANTHER ENTERS THE PICTURE SOME NIGHTS LATER...AS THE SOUND OF VIOLENT ARGUING DISTURBS A BRICK-STREWN PLAYGROUND...!
SHOVE OFF, MAN! I DON'T DIG THE WAR ANY MORE THAN THE NEXT BROTHER...
WELL, HOW ABOUT IT, CARVER? WE COULD USE A VET LIKE YOU!
BUT I FIGURE THERE'S BETTER WAYS TO PROTEST IT THAN TO JOIN A HATE-CREW LIKE YOU "THUNDER-BOLTS"!!
NOBODY WITH HALF A BRAIN IS GONNA FALL FOR THAT "WHITE MAN'S WAR" JAZZ YOU GUYS PREACH!
YEAH? WELL, WE AINT HEARD FROM LONNIE, YET? WHAT SAY, MAN?
I STAND WITH BILLY!
NOW YOU'VE HEARD FROM HIM!
SO WHY DON'T YOU JUST FLAKE OFF, SO THAT--
UNNHHH!
WOK!
YOU AINT WITH US, CARVER--SO THAT MEANS YOU'RE AGAINST US!
AND HERE'S WHAT THE THUNDER-BOLTS DO TO AN UNCLE TOM!

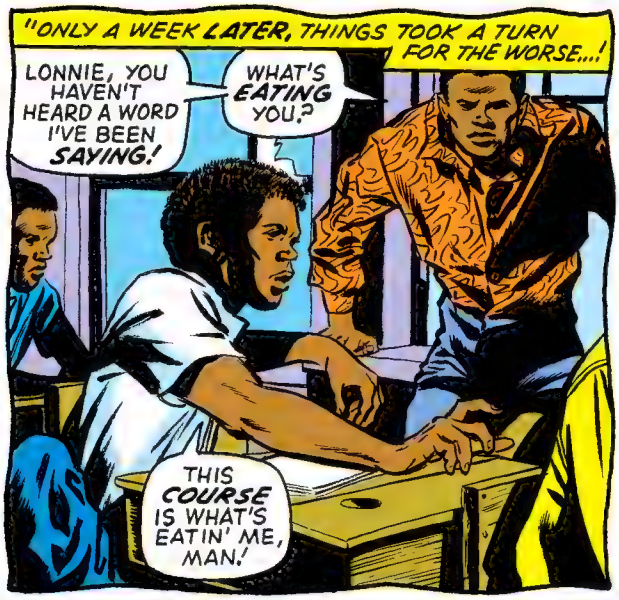
BILLY! GET UP, BILLY! DON'T LET 'EM SCUM ON YOU--!
YOU HEARD THE KID, BILLY-BOY!
WHY DON'TCHA LEARN US ALL A LESSON?
NO! I DID MY SHARE OF FIGHTIN'--AN' I KNOW WHAT TOTIN' A WEAPON CAN DO TO A MAN!
I'M THRU WITH BLOODSHED--IN RICE PADDIES OR IN HARLEM!
YEAH? WELL, MAYBE YOU'RE ALL THRU SHEDDIN' OTHER PEOPLE'S BLOOD, UNCLE TOM, BUT--
NO!
YOU HEARD THE LAD, MY FRIEND! HE SAID NO!
HUH?!
HEY! IT'S--THE PANTHER!!
BUTT OUTTA THIS ONE, BABY--YOU AINT GOT NO RIGHT--!
RIGHT? YOU DARE SPEAK OF MEN'S RIGHTS--WHILE YOUR EVERY GESTURE IS A MENACE--YOUR EVERY WORD A THREAT?
HERE! SPEAK TO YOUR FELLOW THUNDER-BOLTS ABOUT YOUR RIGHTS!
WHOMP!
YOU ARE BOTH CUT FROM THE SAME CLOTH!

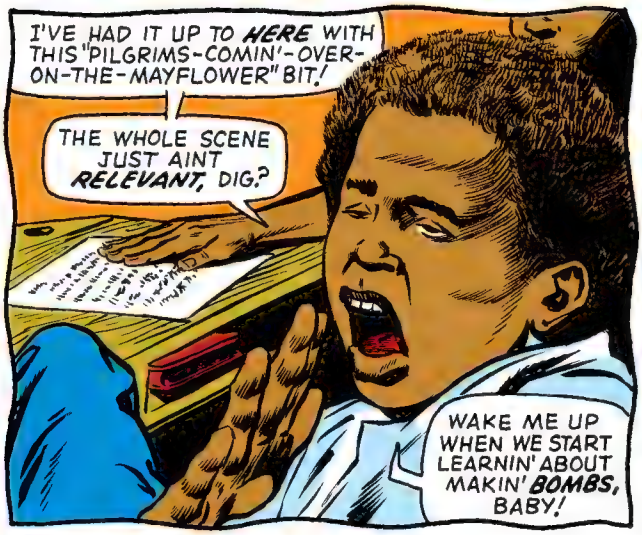
TAKE 'IM, CLYDE! SHOW 'IM HE CAN'T MESS WITH THE THUNDERBOLTS!
CONSIDER 'IM SHOWED, TURK! WHEN I'M THRU WITH 'IM, HE'LL--
WHUMMFF!
HOLY JOE! THAT AVENGER'S WORTH A WHOLE REGIMENT!
COMING FROM YOU, SOLDIER, I SHALL CONSIDER THAT A COMPLIMENT!
WELL, EVEN A REGIMENT CAN GET ITSELF CREAMED, PIG!
NO DOUBT IT CAN, MY UNCOORDINATED FRIEND...
...BUT IF SO, IT WILL NOT BE BY A FOURSOME WHOSE IDEA OF A FAIR FIGHT IS TO GANG UP ON A PEACE-LOVING VETERAN AND A 15-YEAR-OLD!
HMMM...IT APPEARS MY LONG-WINDED SPEECH DROVE OFF YOUR BACK-UP MEN!
AND, I AM SURE YOU'D PREFER TO JOIN THEM....!
LET'S SPLIT! WE'LL SETTLE UP WITH UNCLE TOM LATER!
WHAK
10

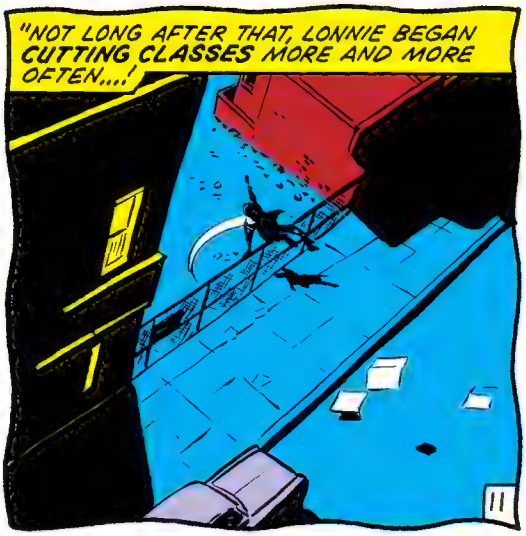

THANKS A HEAP, FELLA!
MY PLEASURE! THOSE VERMIN AREN'T INTERESTED IN BLACK POWER,,,ONLY IN THUNDERBOLT POWER!
QUITE A BIG BROTHER YOU HAVE HERE, SON!
RIGHT ON, PANTHER!

...INCIDENTALLY, DD, IN CASE YOU WERE WONDERING...
I MIGHT AS WELL ADD THAT...I AM THE TEACHER NAMED LUKE CHARLES!
I MIGHT HAVE SUSPECTED AS MUCH! BUT WHY TELL ME?
PERHAPS IT'S BECAUSE I KNOW THAT YOU ARE, IN REALITY... MATT MURDOCK!


WHAT? YOU KNOW!?
BUT HOW THE DEVIL--?
NOW, LISTEN TO THE END OF MY STORY--!
I SHADOWED YOU ONCE-- WHEN WE WERE BATTLING STARR SAXON!*
*IN ISSUE #52! --STAN.


"ONLY A WEEK LATER, THINGS TOOK A TURN FOR THE WORSE...!
LONNIE, YOU HAVEN'T HEARD A WORD I'VE BEEN SAYING!
WHAT'S EATING YOU?
THIS COURSE IS WHAT'S EATIN' ME, MAN!


I'VE HAD IT UP TO HERE WITH THIS "PILGRIMS-COMIN'-OVER-ON-THE-MAYFLOWER" BIT!
THE WHOLE SCENE JUST AINT RELEVANT, DIG?
WAKE ME UP WHEN WE START LEARNIN' ABOUT MAKIN' BOMBS, BABY!


"NOT LONG AFTER THAT, LONNIE BEGAN CUTTING CLASSES MORE AND MORE OFTEN....!

"AND, WHENEVER HE DID, HIS **EMPTY DESK** SEEMED TO GLARE BACK ACCUSINGLY AT LUKE...!

I'VE **FAILED** LONNIE SOMEHOW... BUT I CAN'T BEGIN TO FIGURE OUT **HOW...** OR WHAT TO **DO** ABOUT IT...

...UNTIL I LEARN **WHERE** HE GOES WHEN HE SKIPS SCHOOL!

Anne Hutch
Roger Wilk

"AS IT HAPPENED, HOWEVER, IT WAS A FEW **NIGHTS** LATER THAT I LEARNED THE **ANSWER...** A MOST **UNPLEASANT** ONE...!

LONNIE... ROAMING WITH THE **THUNDERBOLTS!**

BUT **WHY?** I MUST FIND OUT--THE NEXT TIME I **SEE** HIM! I **MUST!**

LIVE LOVE

"BUT, IN THE FEW DAYS SINCE THEN, LONNIE **NEVER** RETURNED TO SCHOOL...SO I WAS FORCED TO MAKE PERIODIC CHECKS OF HIS **HOME...!"**

12.

BUT, HIS BROTHER **BILLY** DOESN'T SEEM TO LIVE THERE ANY LONGER...

AND, THOUGH I HAD **OVERHEARD** LONNIE SPEAK ON THE PHONE OF THE PLANNED ROBBERY, AN **AVENGERS** MEETING KEPT ME FROM ARRIVING THERE **SOONER!***

THEN **I** BUTTED IN... AND NOW HE'S HOVERING BETWEEN **LIFE AND DEATH!**

DON'T BLAME **YOURSELF,** MAN! LONNIE WILL **MAKE** IT--HE **HAS** TO!

*SEE OUR CURRENT ISSUE!--S.

OH, **HERE** YOU TWO ARE! I'VE BEEN LOOKING ALL **OVER!**

THE BOY IS **AWAKE** NOW... BUT I DON'T KNOW FOR HOW **LONG....!**

THAT SOUNDS **BAD!** COME ON, PANTHER!

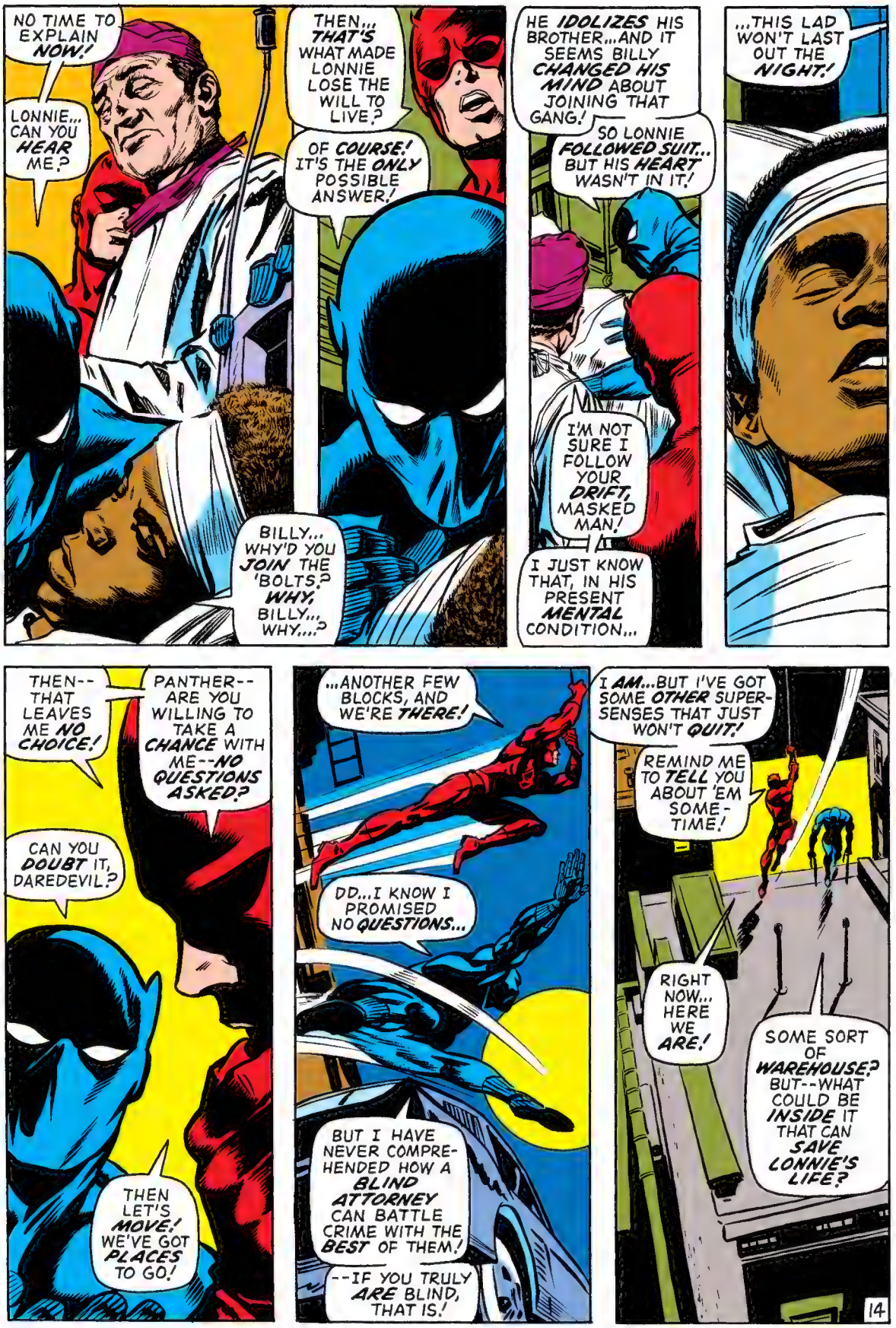
...A **STRANGE** CASE! THE LAD SEEMS TO HAVE LOST...THE **WILL TO LIVE!**

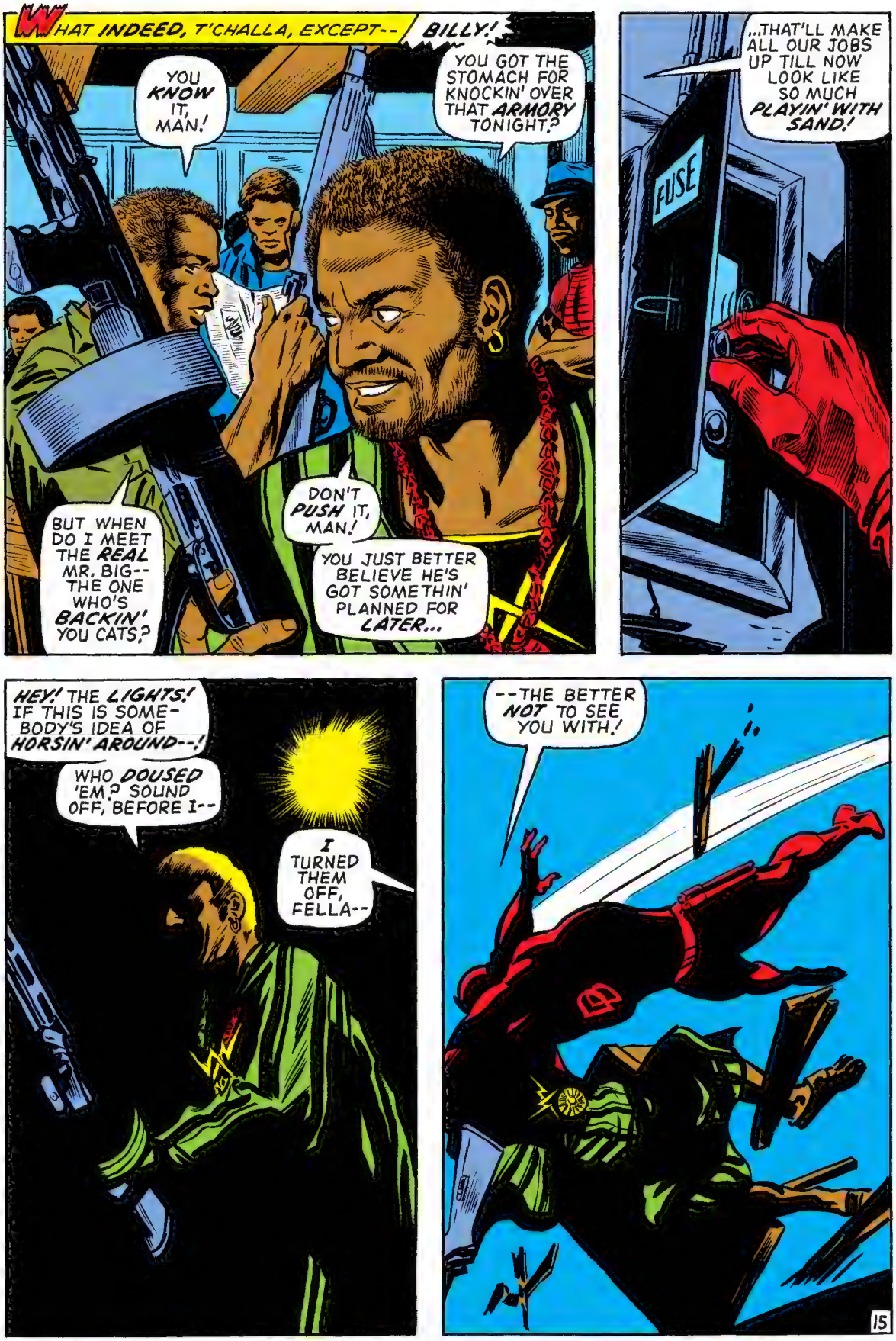
HE DOESN'T SEEM TO **SEE** OR **HEAR** ME...JUST KEEPS MURMURING A SINGLE **NAME...!**

WOULD THAT NAME BE... **"BILLY"?**

WHY-- **YES!** HOW DID YOU--?

13


NO TIME TO EXPLAIN NOW!
LONNIE... CAN YOU HEAR ME?
THEN... THAT'S WHAT MADE LONNIE LOSE THE WILL TO LIVE?
OF COURSE! IT'S THE ONLY POSSIBLE ANSWER!
BILLY... WHY'D YOU JOIN THE 'BOLTS? WHY, BILLY... WHY...?
HE IDOLIZES HIS BROTHER...AND IT SEEMS BILLY CHANGED HIS MIND ABOUT JOINING THAT GANG!
SO LONNIE FOLLOWED SUIT... BUT HIS HEART WASN'T IN IT!
I'M NOT SURE I FOLLOW YOUR DRIFT, MASKED MAN!
I JUST KNOW THAT, IN HIS PRESENT MENTAL CONDITION...
...THIS LAD WON'T LAST OUT THE NIGHT!
THEN-- THAT LEAVES ME NO CHOICE!
PANTHER-- ARE YOU WILLING TO TAKE A CHANCE WITH ME--NO QUESTIONS ASKED?
CAN YOU DOUBT IT, DAREDEVIL?
THEN LET'S MOVE! WE'VE GOT PLACES TO GO!
...ANOTHER FEW BLOCKS, AND WE'RE THERE!
DD...I KNOW I PROMISED NO QUESTIONS...
BUT I HAVE NEVER COMPREHENDED HOW A BLIND ATTORNEY CAN BATTLE CRIME WITH THE BEST OF THEM!
--IF YOU TRULY ARE BLIND, THAT IS!
I AM...BUT I'VE GOT SOME OTHER SUPER-SENSES THAT JUST WON'T QUIT!
REMIND ME TO TELL YOU ABOUT 'EM SOME-TIME!
RIGHT NOW... HERE WE ARE!
SOME SORT OF WAREHOUSE? BUT--WHAT COULD BE INSIDE IT THAT CAN SAVE LONNIE'S LIFE?

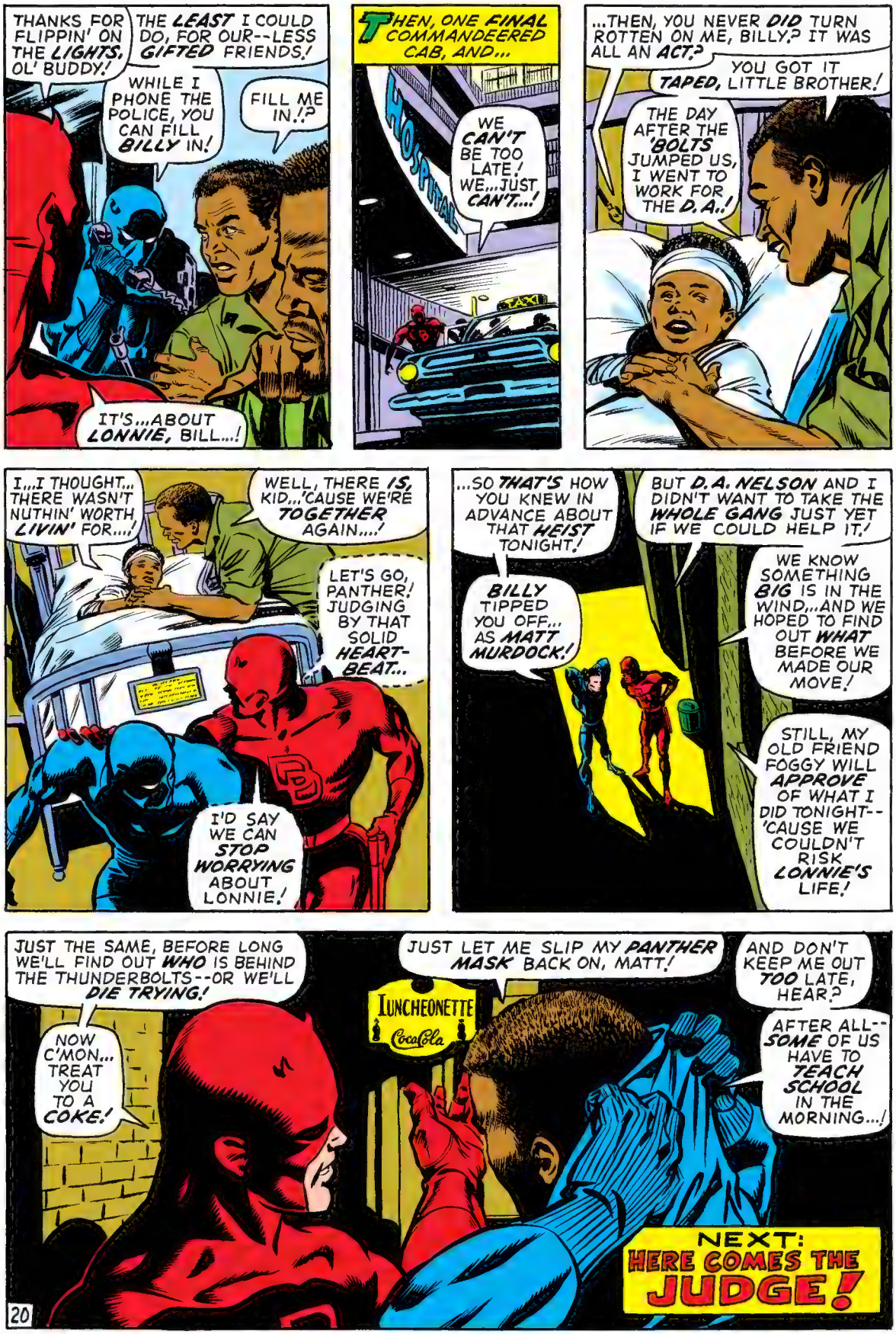

WHAT INDEED, T'CHALLA, EXCEPT--
BILLY!
YOU KNOW IT, MAN!
YOU GOT THE STOMACH FOR KNOCKIN' OVER THAT ARMORY TONIGHT?
BUT WHEN DO I MEET THE REAL MR. BIG--THE ONE WHO'S BACKIN' YOU CATS?
DON'T PUSH IT, MAN!
YOU JUST BETTER BELIEVE HE'S GOT SOMETHIN' PLANNED FOR LATER...
FUSE
...THAT'LL MAKE ALL OUR JOBS UP TILL NOW LOOK LIKE SO MUCH PLAYIN' WITH SAND!
HEY! THE LIGHTS! IF THIS IS SOMEBODY'S IDEA OF HORSIN' AROUND--!
WHO DOUSED 'EM? SOUND OFF, BEFORE I--
I TURNED THEM OFF, FELLA--
--THE BETTER NOT TO SEE YOU WITH!
15

I'M RIGHT BEHIND YOU, MY FRIEND!
THE WAY DAREDEVIL MOVES IN THE DARK--EVEN MORE SURELY THAN I CAN--
THE SENSES HE MENTIONED MUST TRULY BE BEYOND ALL BELIEF!
:UNNHH!:-- LOOK OUT, YOU CATS! THERE'S TWO OF 'EM--!
THAT COULD BE TRUE! THEN AGAIN, THERE MIGHT BE THREE OF US--OR EVEN FOUR!
BRAKKA-BRAKKA
OR MAYBE ONE WOULD BE ENOUGH--WHILE YOU CREEPS ARE PLAYING BLIND MAN'S BLUFF!
FACT IS, DARKNESS IS THE ONLY TRUMP-CARD WE'VE GOT!
OTHERWISE--THE PANTHER AND I ARE HOPELESSLY OUTNUMBERED!
HMMM...REINFORCEMENTS FROM AN UNEXPECTED QUARTER!
YOU 'BOLTS ARE YOUR OWN WORST ENEMIES!
I GOT 'IM, LEADERMAN! I--
:MMFFF!:-
I DON'T KNOW WHO'S IN HERE WITH US--OR HOW YOU CAN TELL WHAT'S GOIN' DOWN WHEN WE CAN'T--
BUT YOU GOTTA GO, BABY--AND I'LL SEE TO IT THAT THEY CART YOU AWAY IN A BOX--
--IF I GOTTA FILL EVERYBODY IN THE ROOM WITH LEAD!!
KBAM! KBAM!

THAT LAST SHOT MISSED ME BY INCHES!
BUT-- BLAST IT-- I TWISTED MY ANKLE, EVADING IT!
KPWING!
DD--ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
HUH? DAREDEVIL? IS HE IN ON THIS?
DON'T SWEAT IT, LEADER-MAN!
YOU TAKE CARE OF DAREDEVIL-- WE GOT THIS ONE!
HAVE WE EVER!!
I WAS CARELESS! THESE TWO LOCATED ME-- WHEN I CRIED OUT!
WE STILL DON'T KNOW WHO YOU ARE, BIG MAN--
BUT, IF YOU'RE PALLIN' AROUND WITH THAT DAREDEVIL CAT--
--YOU AINT NO BROTHER OF THE THUNDER-BOLTS!

SLAM!
YOU MAY FIND IT HARD TO BELIEVE, GOOD MEN AND TRUE...
...BUT I TAKE THAT AS A DISTINCT COMPLI-MENT!
THOOM
YOU WON'T TAKE NUTHIN', BABY-- NEVER AGAIN!
'CAUSE, WHILE YOU WAS SCUFFLIN' WITH MY MEN THERE--I FOUND THIS!
KLIK!
NOW LET'S JUST SNEAK A PEEK AND SEE WHO--
WELLWELLWELL, IF IT AINT-- THE PANTHER!
THE ORIGINAL ESTABLISH-MENT BLACK MAN HIMSELF!
DON'T TRY TO PALM OFF THAT "ESTABLISH-MENT" JARGON ON ME, FRIEND!
I'M OLD ENOUGH TO TELL THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A DISSENTER AND A CRIMINAL!
CUT THE SERMON, MAN--!
I KNOW YOU AINT HERE ALL BY YOUR LONESOME!
WHERE'S DARE-DEVIL? SPIT IT OUT, BEFORE I--
STILL COULDN'T RUN--FAST ENOUGH TO TAKE HIM!
BUT MAYBE-- MY BILLY CLUB--!

WAIT A MINUTE! RIGHT NEXT TO ME--
THE SOUND OF A SAFETY CATCH BEING UNLOCKED!
CLICK
AND--I'M BETTING I KNOW WHO'S ON THE BUSINESS END OF THAT CARBINE!
BROTHER BILLY!!
OKAY, LEADER-MAN-- REACH FOR IT!
WHA--?
I'LL TAKE IT FROM HERE, BILLY!
SWAK!
YEEOW!
SO YOU'RE THE PIG, HUH, BILLY-BOY?
WELL, IF THEY GOT ANY MEDALS FOR YOU--THEY CAN PIN 'EM ON YOUR CASKET!
WHERE DO YOU DIG UP THOSE LINES, FELLA? THE LATE, LATE SHOW?
BILLY-- YOU OKAY, GUY?
BELIEVE IT, DD!
JUST A FLESH WOUND --NOTHING A BAND AID WON'T TAKE CARE OF!
HEY! THERE GO THE LIGHTS!
YOU! WE SHOULD'A KNOWN!
BUT YOU DIDN'T, MAN--AND THAT'S WHAT COUNTS!


THANKS FOR FLIPPIN' ON THE LIGHTS, OL' BUDDY!
THE LEAST I COULD DO, FOR OUR--LESS GIFTED FRIENDS!
WHILE I PHONE THE POLICE, YOU CAN FILL BILLY IN!
FILL ME IN!?
IT'S...ABOUT LONNIE, BILL...!
THEN, ONE FINAL COMMANDEERED CAB, AND...
HOSPITAL
WE CAN'T BE TOO LATE! WE...JUST CAN'T...!
TAXI
...THEN, YOU NEVER DID TURN ROTTEN ON ME, BILLY? IT WAS ALL AN ACT?
YOU GOT IT TAPED, LITTLE BROTHER!
THE DAY AFTER THE 'BOLTS JUMPED US, I WENT TO WORK FOR THE D.A.!
I...I THOUGHT... THERE WASN'T NUTHIN' WORTH LIVIN' FOR...!
WELL, THERE IS, KID...'CAUSE WE'RE TOGETHER AGAIN...!
LET'S GO, PANTHER! JUDGING BY THAT SOLID HEART-BEAT...
I'D SAY WE CAN STOP WORRYING ABOUT LONNIE!
...SO THAT'S HOW YOU KNEW IN ADVANCE ABOUT THAT HEIST TONIGHT!
BILLY TIPPED YOU OFF... AS MATT MURDOCK!
BUT D.A. NELSON AND I DIDN'T WANT TO TAKE THE WHOLE GANG JUST YET IF WE COULD HELP IT!
WE KNOW SOMETHING BIG IS IN THE WIND...AND WE HOPED TO FIND OUT WHAT BEFORE WE MADE OUR MOVE!
STILL, MY OLD FRIEND FOGGY WILL APPROVE OF WHAT I DID TONIGHT--'CAUSE WE COULDN'T RISK LONNIE'S LIFE!
JUST THE SAME, BEFORE LONG WE'LL FIND OUT WHO IS BEHIND THE THUNDERBOLTS--OR WE'LL DIE TRYING!
NOW C'MON... TREAT YOU TO A COKE!
JUST LET ME SLIP MY PANTHER MASK BACK ON, MATT!
LUNCHEONETTE
Coca-Cola
AND DON'T KEEP ME OUT TOO LATE, HEAR?
AFTER ALL--SOME OF US HAVE TO TEACH SCHOOL IN THE MORNING...!
NEXT: HERE COMES THE JUDGE!
20

DARE-DEVIL
15¢
70
NOV
DAREDEVIL
THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR!
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
MARVEL COMICS GROUP
HE'S DOWN! DAREDEVIL WAS CAUGHT-- IN THAT BOMB BLAST!
PEACE NOW!
AND IF HE DIES... YOU KIDS GET THE CHAIR!!
A CITY IN TURMOIL-- A CITY IN FLAME!

DAREDEVIL, THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR!™

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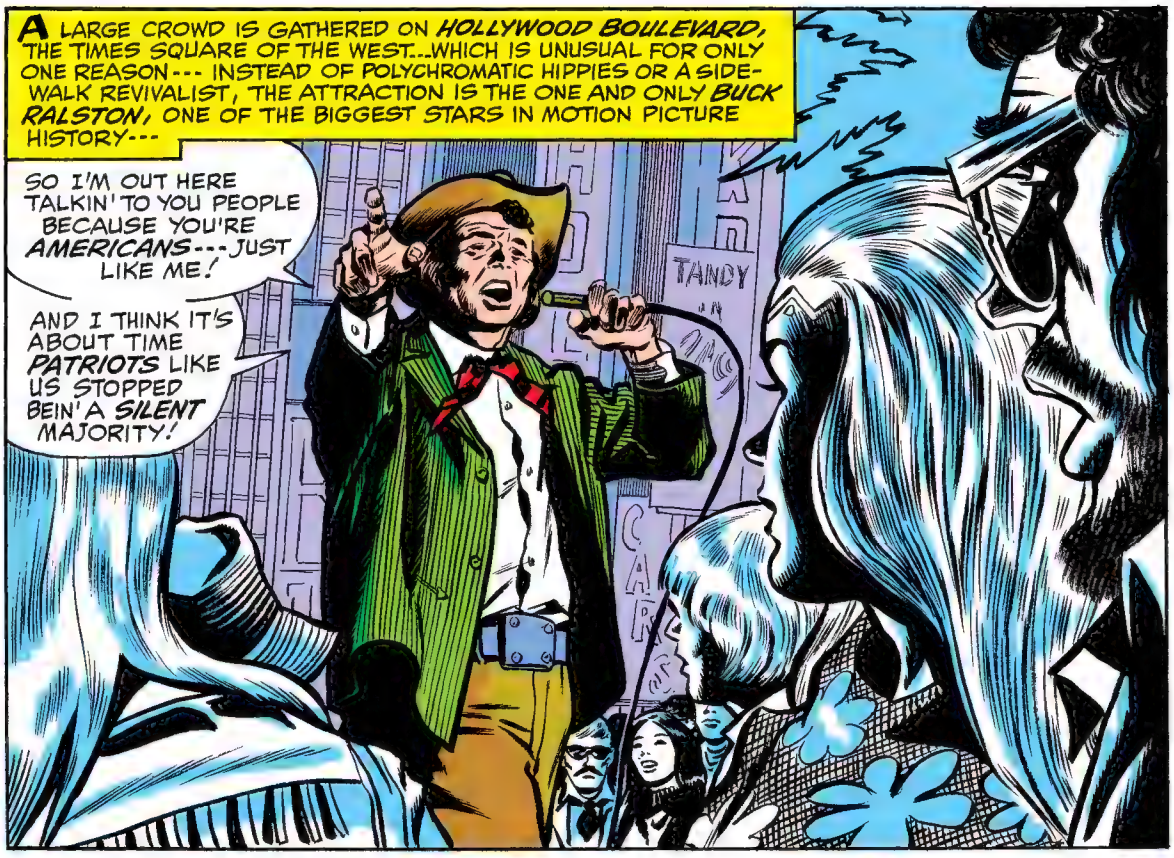
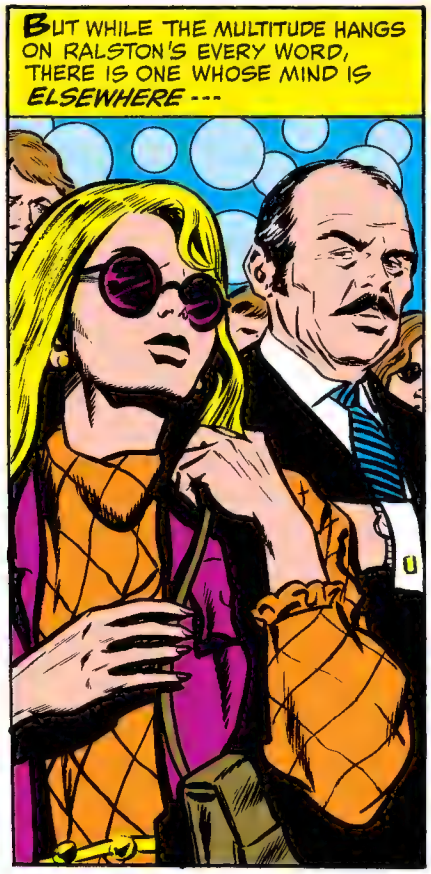
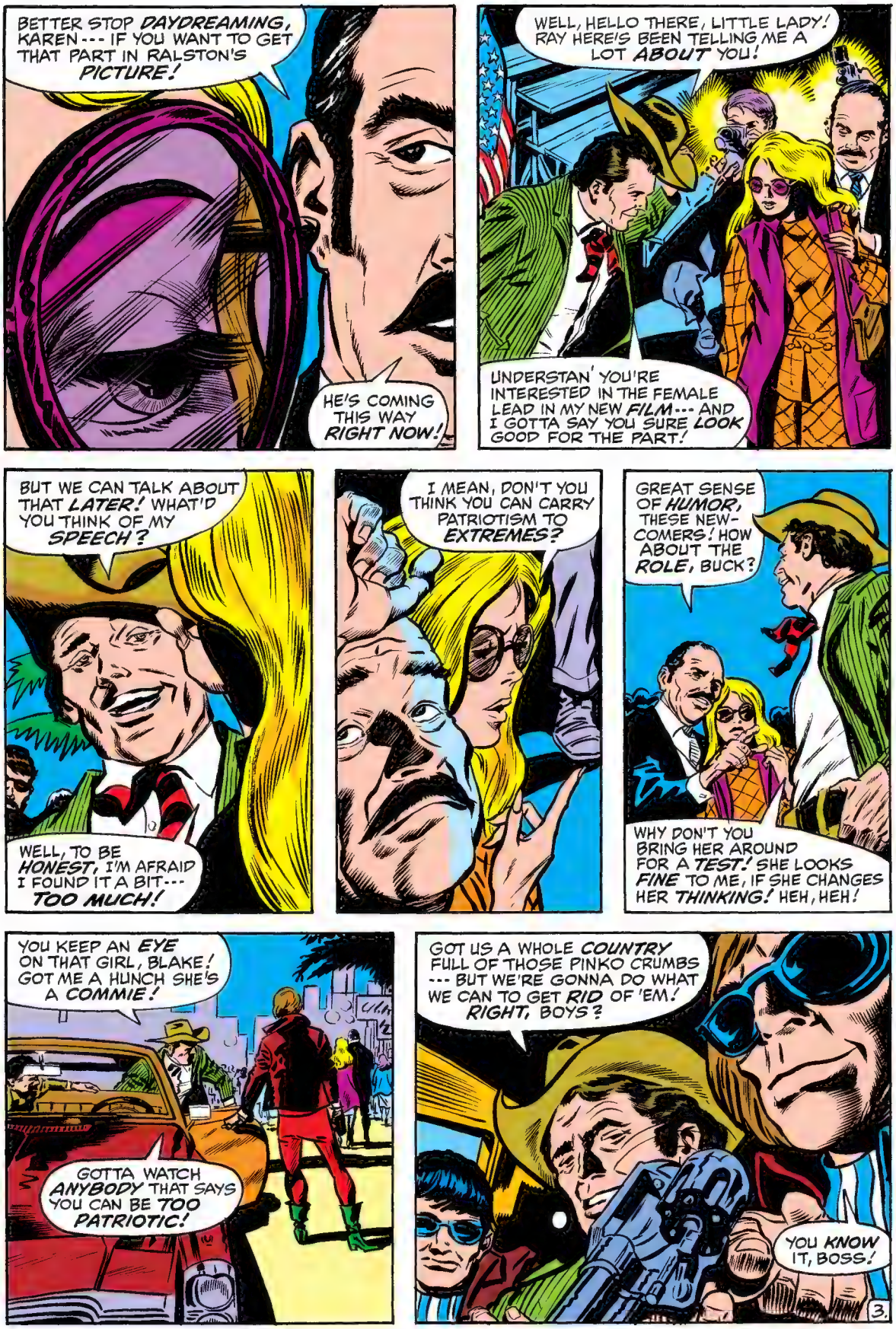
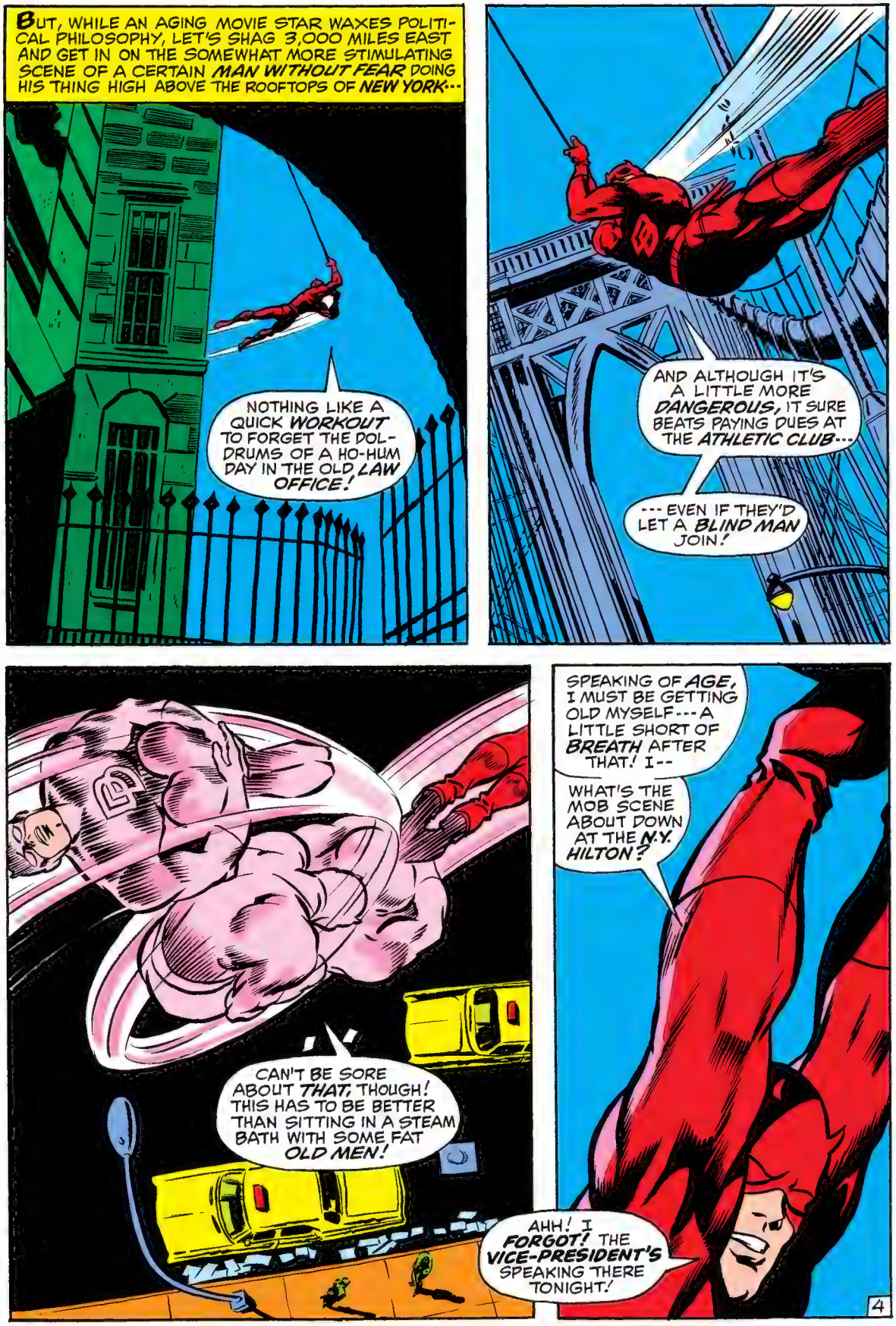

A LARGE CROWD IS GATHERED ON HOLLYWOOD BOULEVARD, THE TIMES SQUARE OF THE WEST...WHICH IS UNUSUAL FOR ONLY ONE REASON--- INSTEAD OF POLYCHROMATIC HIPPIES OR A SIDEWALK REVIVALIST, THE ATTRACTION IS THE ONE AND ONLY BUCK RALSTON, ONE OF THE BIGGEST STARS IN MOTION PICTURE HISTORY---
SO I'M OUT HERE TALKIN' TO YOU PEOPLE BECAUSE YOU'RE AMERICANS---JUST LIKE ME!
AND I THINK IT'S ABOUT TIME PATRIOTS LIKE US STOPPED BEIN' A SILENT MAJORITY!
TANDY


BUT WHILE THE MULTITUDE HANGS ON RALSTON'S EVERY WORD, THERE IS ONE WHOSE MIND IS ELSEWHERE---

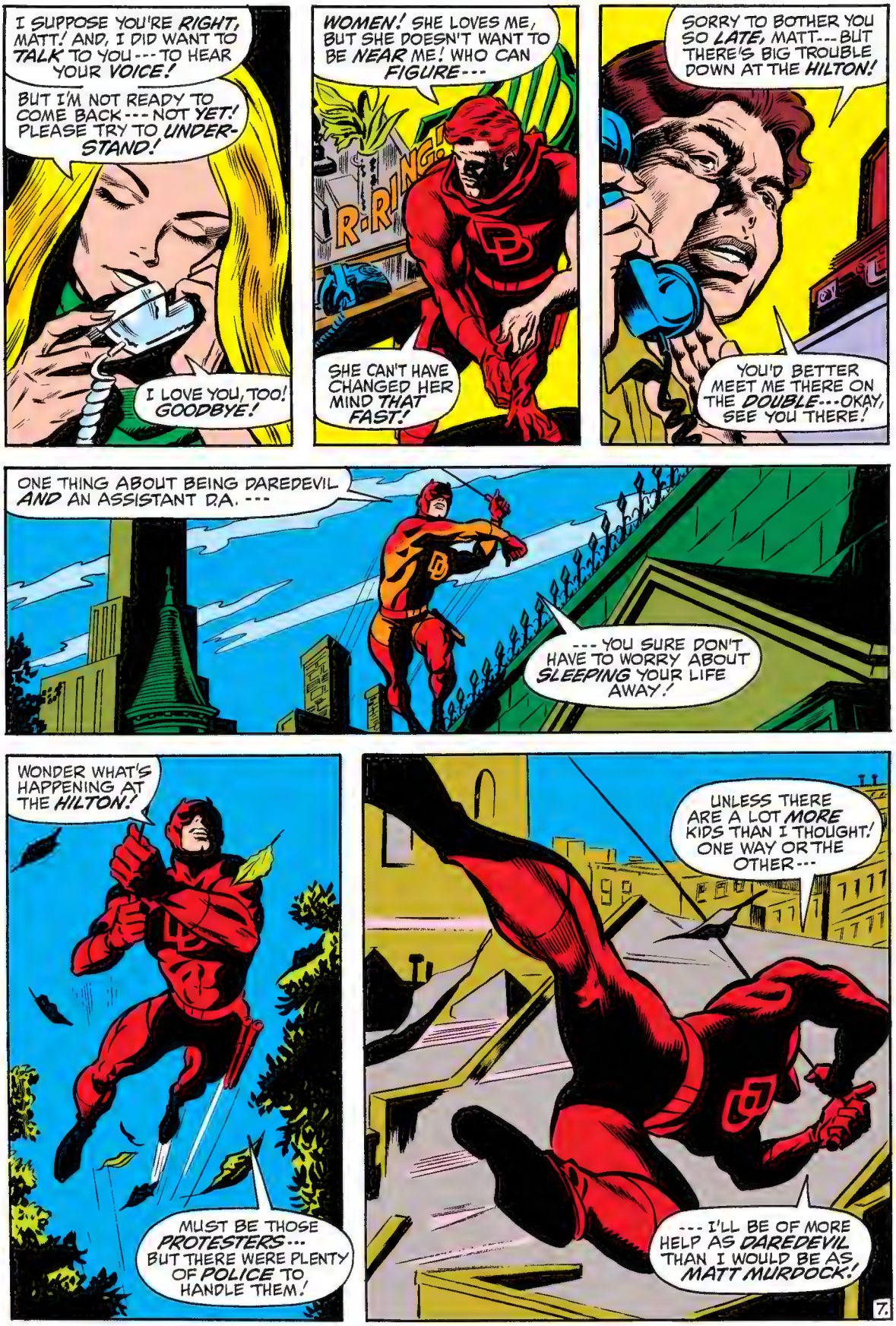
OH, MATT--- WHY HAVEN'T I HEARD FROM YOU? YOU COULD AT LEAST CALL---
---OR MAYBE YOU'RE TOO BUSY BEING DAREDEVIL!
2.


BETTER STOP DAYDREAMING, KAREN --- IF YOU WANT TO GET THAT PART IN RALSTON'S PICTURE!
HE'S COMING THIS WAY RIGHT NOW!
WELL, HELLO THERE, LITTLE LADY! RAY HERE'S BEEN TELLING ME A LOT ABOUT YOU!
UNDERSTAN' YOU'RE INTERESTED IN THE FEMALE LEAD IN MY NEW FILM --- AND I GOTTA SAY YOU SURE LOOK GOOD FOR THE PART!
BUT WE CAN TALK ABOUT THAT LATER! WHAT'D YOU THINK OF MY SPEECH?
WELL, TO BE HONEST, I'M AFRAID I FOUND IT A BIT --- TOO MUCH!
I MEAN, DON'T YOU THINK YOU CAN CARRY PATRIOTISM TO EXTREMES?
GREAT SENSE OF HUMOR, THESE NEW-COMERS! HOW ABOUT THE ROLE, BUCK?
WHY DON'T YOU BRING HER AROUND FOR A TEST! SHE LOOKS FINE TO ME, IF SHE CHANGES HER THINKING! HEH, HEH!
YOU KEEP AN EYE ON THAT GIRL, BLAKE! GOT ME A HUNCH SHE'S A COMMIE!
GOTTA WATCH ANYBODY THAT SAYS YOU CAN BE TOO PATRIOTIC!
GOT US A WHOLE COUNTRY FULL OF THOSE PINKO CRUMBS --- BUT WE'RE GONNA DO WHAT WE CAN TO GET RID OF 'EM! RIGHT, BOYS?
YOU KNOW IT, BOSS!
3.

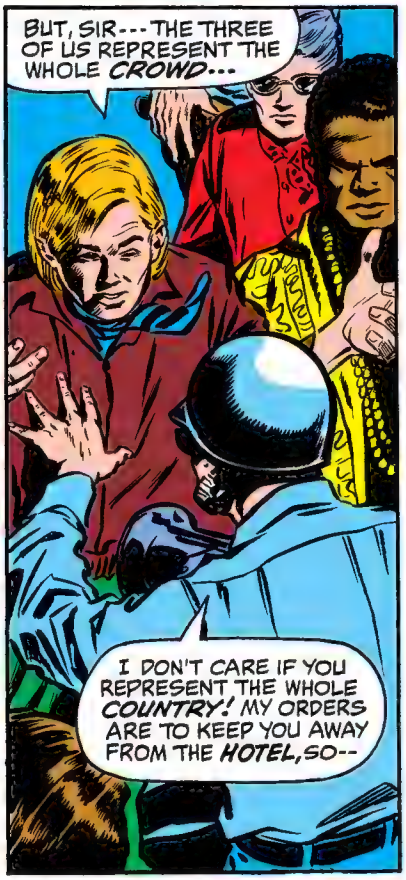

BUT, WHILE AN AGING MOVIE STAR WAXES POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY, LET'S SHAG 3,000 MILES EAST AND GET IN ON THE SOMEWHAT MORE STIMULATING SCENE OF A CERTAIN MAN WITHOUT FEAR DOING HIS THING HIGH ABOVE THE ROOFTOPS OF NEW YORK...
NOTHING LIKE A QUICK WORKOUT TO FORGET THE DOLDRUMS OF A HO-HUM DAY IN THE OLD LAW OFFICE!
AND ALTHOUGH IT'S A LITTLE MORE DANGEROUS, IT SURE BEATS PAYING DUES AT THE ATHLETIC CLUB...
--- EVEN IF THEY'D LET A BLIND MAN JOIN!
CAN'T BE SORE ABOUT THAT, THOUGH! THIS HAS TO BE BETTER THAN SITTING IN A STEAM BATH WITH SOME FAT OLD MEN!
SPEAKING OF AGE, I MUST BE GETTING OLD MYSELF--- A LITTLE SHORT OF BREATH AFTER THAT! I--
WHAT'S THE MOB SCENE ABOUT DOWN AT THE N.Y. HILTON?
AHH! I FORGOT! THE VICE-PRESIDENT'S SPEAKING THERE TONIGHT!
4

HEY, THERE'S THE VEEP NOW! THEY'RE SNEAKING HIM IN THE BACK WAY!
SURE HOPE HE DOESN'T HAVE HIS TENNIS RACKET WITH HIM!
OH, WELL, POLITICS ISN'T MY BAG! I'LL LEAVE THAT UP TO FOGGY! GUESS I MIGHT AS WELL SWING ON HOME!
ALL THOSE PROTESTERS OUT IN FRONT COULD CAUSE SOME TROUBLE---BUT THEY DON'T SOUND LIKE THE VIOLENT TYPE---THEY JUST WANT SOMEBODY TO LISTEN TO THEM---ANYBODY!
SO I'M GONNA GO HOME AND BE GOOD LIKE A DAREDEVIL SHOULD! IT MAY BE BAD GRAMMAR--- BUT IF IT'S GOOD ENOUGH FOR WINSTON---
THEN, FIVE HIGH-FLYING MINUTES LATER---
SO MUCH FOR THAT! ANOTHER DAY SHOT--- UNLESS I CALL KAREN---
BUT I CAN'T CALL HER! AFTER ALL, SHE RAN OUT ON ME!
AND A SUPERHERO --- EVEN A LOVESICK ONE--- HAS TO HAVE SOME PRIDE!
5.

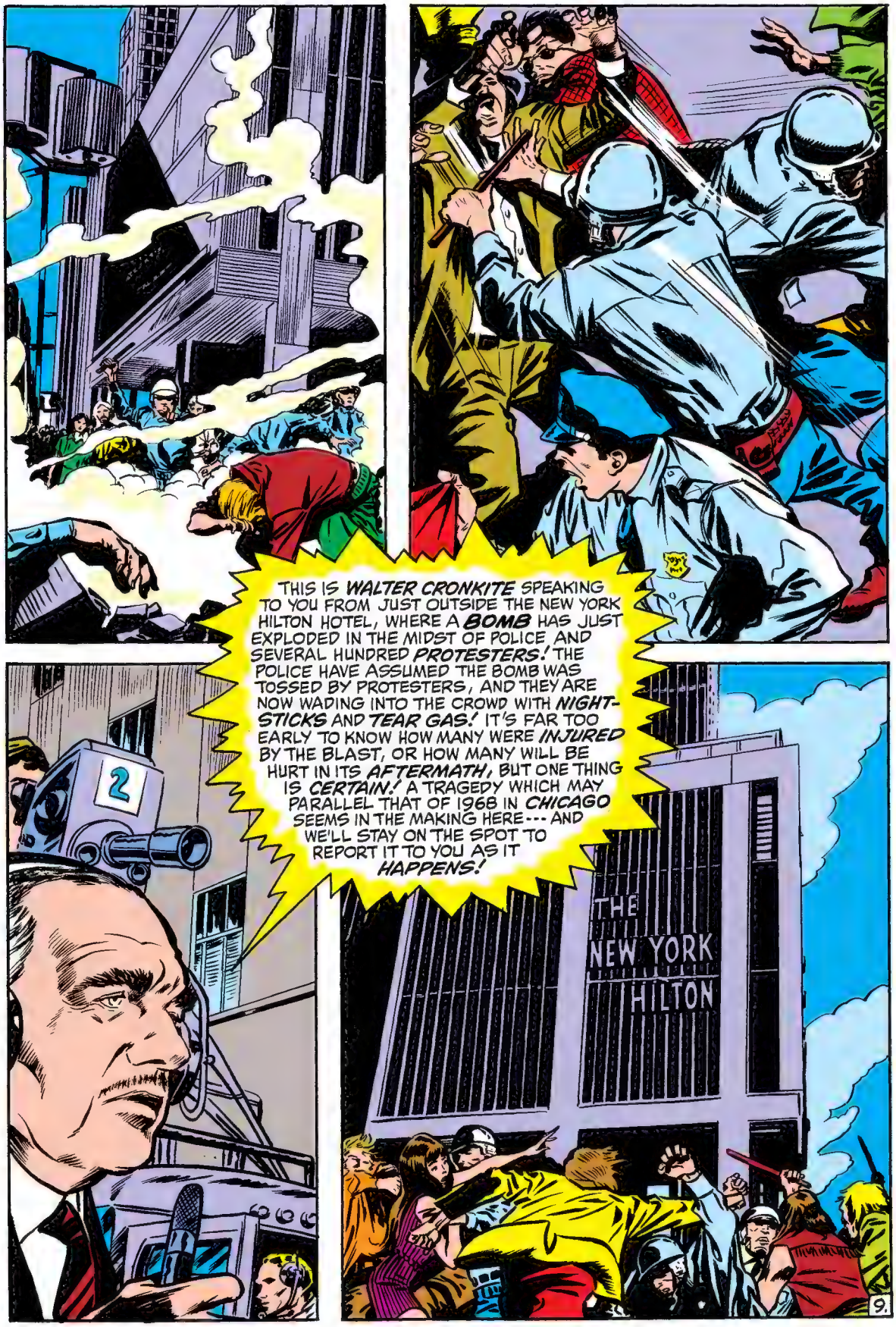
PHEW! WORKED UP SOME KIND OF A SWEAT OUT THERE! MAYBE I'D BETTER SWITCH TO RIGHT GUARD! ONE SHOT AND I'M GOOD FOR--
AH, WHY TRY TO CHEER MYSELF UP? THERE'S ONLY ONE THING THAT'LL DO THAT!
RING!
YOU HAVE TWO SECONDS TO GUESS WHAT RAVISHING HOLLYWOOD STARLET THIS IS--- AND YOU ONLY GET ONE GUESS!
LUCKY! YOU CAN COLLECT YOUR PRIZE NEXT TIME YOU SEE ME!
YES, I'LL BE LOOKING FORWARD TO IT, TOO! BUT THAT ISN'T WHY I CALLED!
I BELIEVE YOU! YOU CALLED TO SAY YOU CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT ME, AND YOU'RE COMING HOME ON THE NEXT PLANE!
RIGHT?
OH! WELL, I CAN HOPE, CAN'T I? WHY DID YOU CALL ME, THEN?
BUCK RALSTON? YES, I KNOW HE'S BEEN MAKING SOME SPEECHES, BUT HE SEEMS PRETTY HARMLESS!
I WOULDN'T LET HIS POLITICS KEEP YOU FROM DOING THE PICTURE WITH HIM! IT MIGHT MAKE YOU A STAR!
6

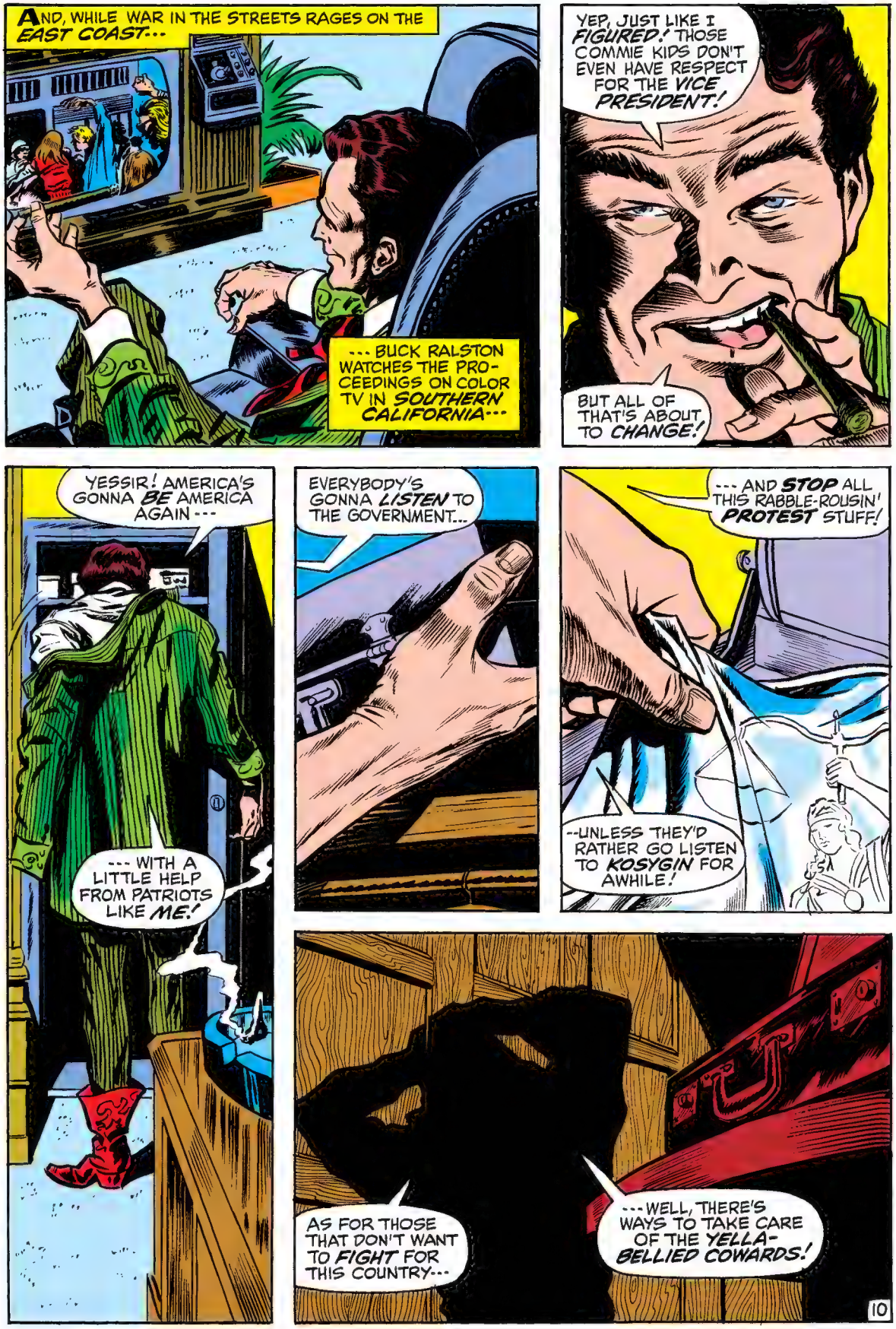

I SUPPOSE YOU'RE RIGHT, MATT! AND, I DID WANT TO TALK TO YOU --- TO HEAR YOUR VOICE!
BUT I'M NOT READY TO COME BACK --- NOT YET! PLEASE TRY TO UNDER-STAND!
I LOVE YOU, TOO! GOODBYE!
WOMEN! SHE LOVES ME, BUT SHE DOESN'T WANT TO BE NEAR ME! WHO CAN FIGURE ---
R-R-RING!
SHE CAN'T HAVE CHANGED HER MIND THAT FAST!
SORRY TO BOTHER YOU SO LATE, MATT --- BUT THERE'S BIG TROUBLE DOWN AT THE HILTON!
YOU'D BETTER MEET ME THERE ON THE DOUBLE --- OKAY, SEE YOU THERE!
ONE THING ABOUT BEING DAREDEVIL AND AN ASSISTANT D.A. ---
--- YOU SURE DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT SLEEPING YOUR LIFE AWAY!
WONDER WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE HILTON!
MUST BE THOSE PROTESTERS --- BUT THERE WERE PLENTY OF POLICE TO HANDLE THEM!
UNLESS THERE ARE A LOT MORE KIDS THAN I THOUGHT! ONE WAY OR THE OTHER ---
--- I'LL BE OF MORE HELP AS DAREDEVIL THAN I WOULD BE AS MATT MURDOCK!

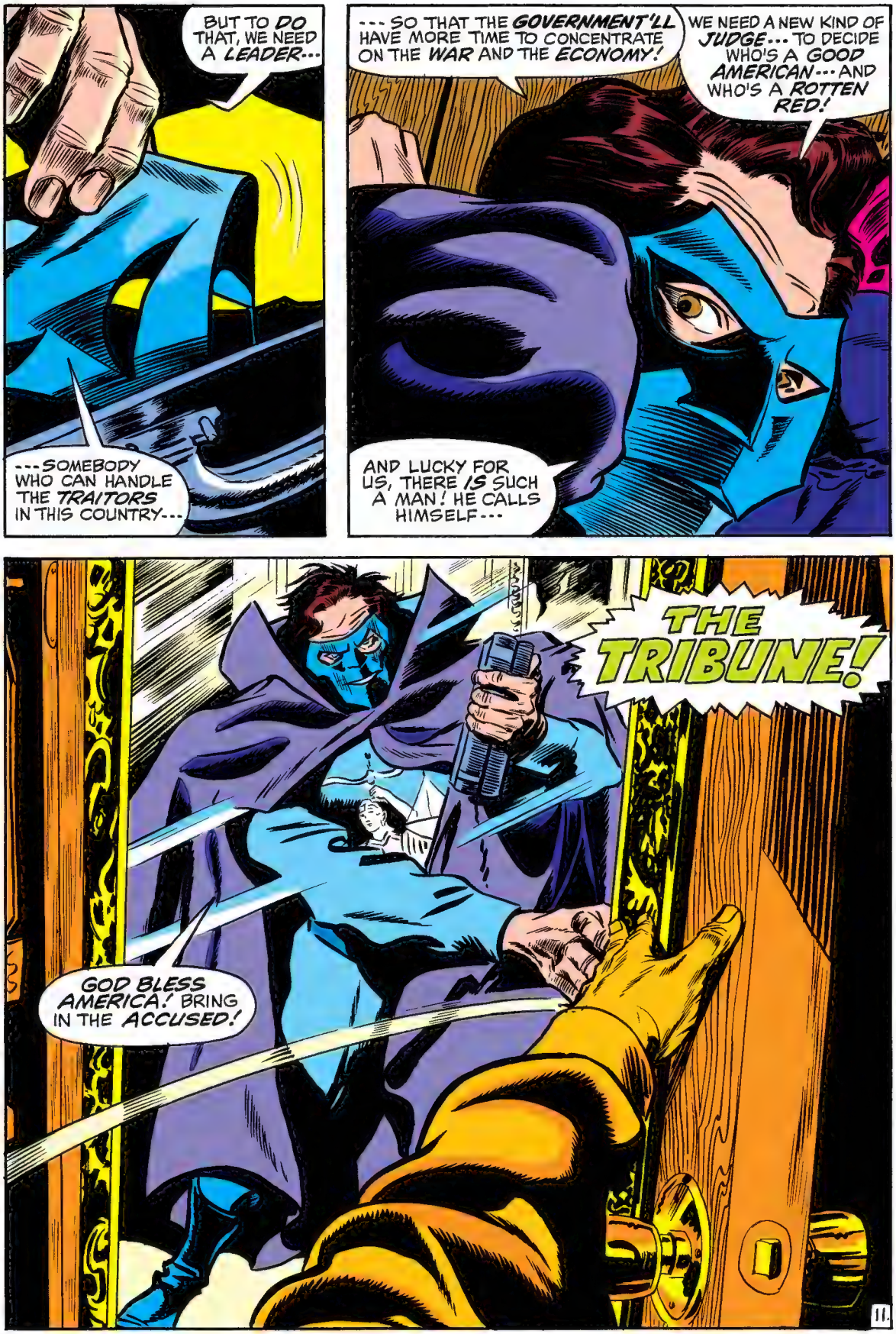
LISTEN, YOU KIDS!
YORK HILTON
at ROCKE
NOW I'M TELLIN' YOU ALL FOR THE LAST TIME! THE VICE-PRESIDENT ISN'T GONNA SEE ANYBODY!
SO YOU'D BETTER BREAK THIS UP AND GO HOME! WE DON'T WANT ANYBODY TO GET HURT, BUT WE GOT OUR JOBS TO DO!


BUT, SIR--- THE THREE OF US REPRESENT THE WHOLE CROWD---
I DON'T CARE IF YOU REPRESENT THE WHOLE COUNTRY! MY ORDERS ARE TO KEEP YOU AWAY FROM THE HOTEL, SO--

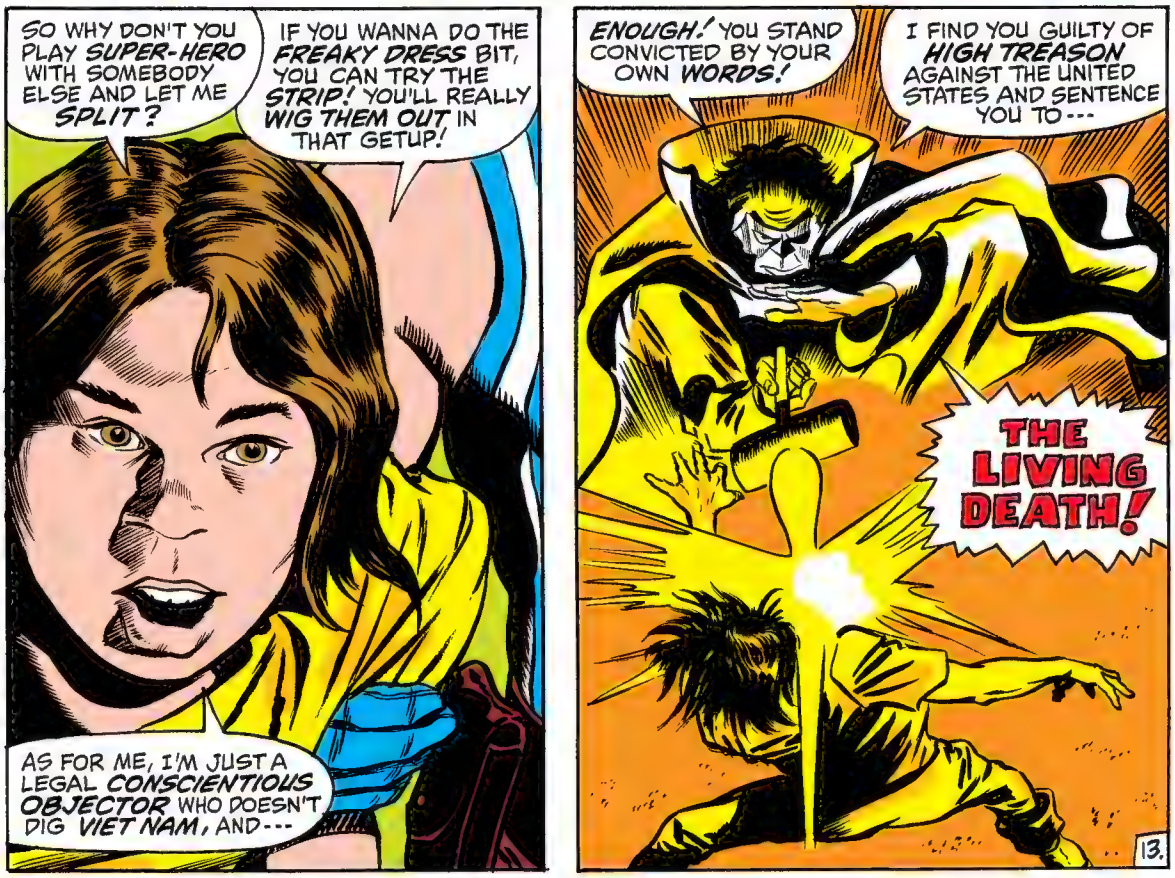
WHROOM!

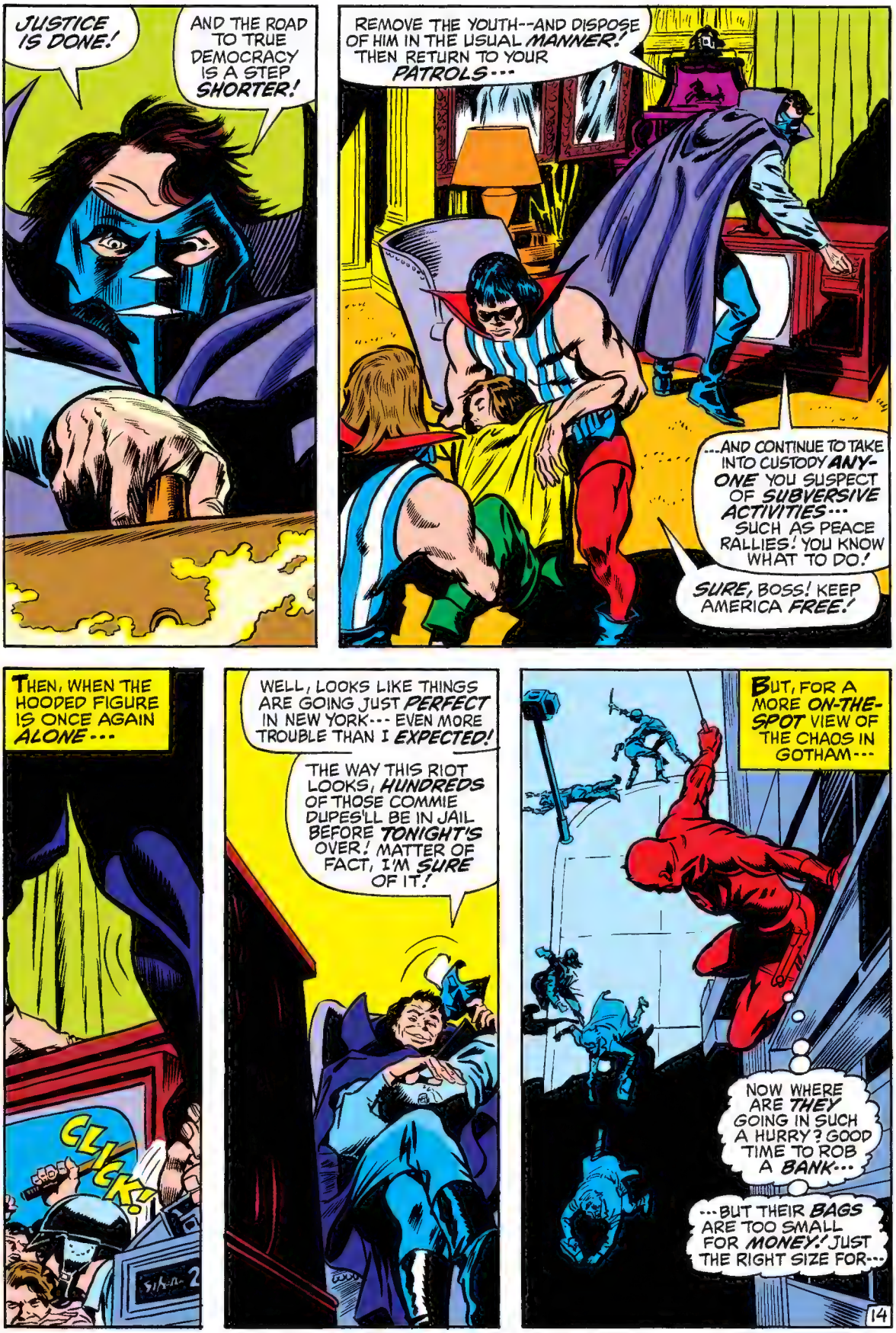

THIS IS WALTER CRONKITE SPEAKING TO YOU FROM JUST OUTSIDE THE NEW YORK HILTON HOTEL, WHERE A BOMB HAS JUST EXPLODED IN THE MIDST OF POLICE AND SEVERAL HUNDRED PROTESTERS! THE POLICE HAVE ASSUMED THE BOMB WAS TOSSED BY PROTESTERS, AND THEY ARE NOW WADING INTO THE CROWD WITH NIGHT-STICKS AND TEAR GAS! IT'S FAR TOO EARLY TO KNOW HOW MANY WERE INJURED BY THE BLAST, OR HOW MANY WILL BE HURT IN ITS AFTERMATH, BUT ONE THING IS CERTAIN! A TRAGEDY WHICH MAY PARALLEL THAT OF 1968 IN CHICAGO SEEMS IN THE MAKING HERE--- AND WE'LL STAY ON THE SPOT TO REPORT IT TO YOU AS IT HAPPENS!
2
THE NEW YORK HILTON

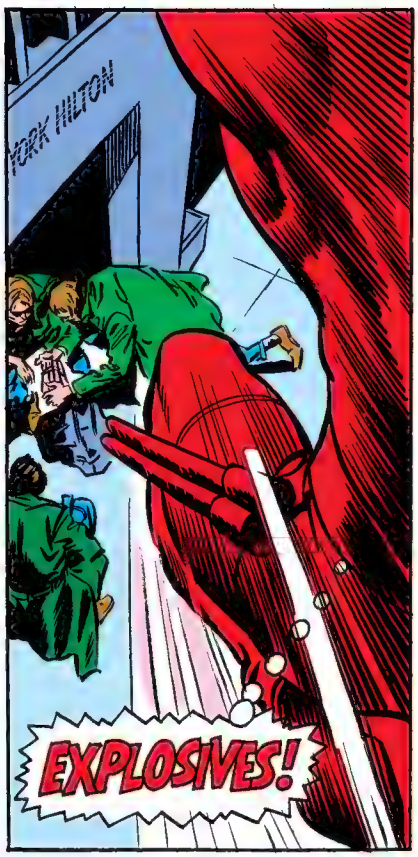

AND, WHILE WAR IN THE STREETS RAGES ON THE EAST COAST---
--- BUCK RALSTON WATCHES THE PROCEEDINGS ON COLOR TV IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA---
YEP, JUST LIKE I FIGURED! THOSE COMMIE KIDS DON'T EVEN HAVE RESPECT FOR THE VICE PRESIDENT!
BUT ALL OF THAT'S ABOUT TO CHANGE!
YESSIR! AMERICA'S GONNA BE AMERICA AGAIN ---
--- WITH A LITTLE HELP FROM PATRIOTS LIKE ME!
EVERYBODY'S GONNA LISTEN TO THE GOVERNMENT...
--- AND STOP ALL THIS RABBLE-ROUSIN' PROTEST STUFF!
--UNLESS THEY'D RATHER GO LISTEN TO KOSYGIN FOR AWHILE!
AS FOR THOSE THAT DON'T WANT TO FIGHT FOR THIS COUNTRY---
--- WELL, THERE'S WAYS TO TAKE CARE OF THE YELLA-BELLIED COWARDS!

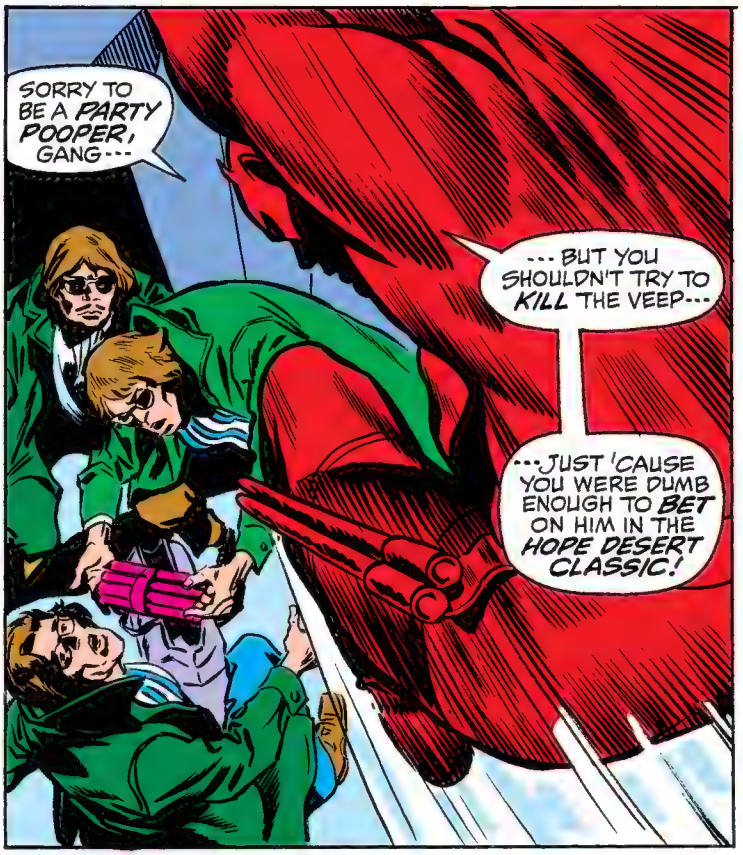

BUT TO DO THAT, WE NEED A LEADER---
---SOMEBODY WHO CAN HANDLE THE TRAITORS IN THIS COUNTRY---
--- SO THAT THE GOVERNMENT'LL HAVE MORE TIME TO CONCENTRATE ON THE WAR AND THE ECONOMY!
WE NEED A NEW KIND OF JUDGE--- TO DECIDE WHO'S A GOOD AMERICAN--- AND WHO'S A ROTTEN RED!
AND LUCKY FOR US, THERE IS SUCH A MAN! HE CALLS HIMSELF---
THE TRIBUNE!
GOD BLESS AMERICA! BRING IN THE ACCUSED!

MOVE, KID! SHOW SOME RESPECT FOR THE JUDGE!
HERE HE IS, YER HONOR! HE'S CHARGED WITH BEIN' A COWARD ON ACCOUNT'A HE COPPED OUT ON THE DRAFT!
WHAT IS THIS? I KNOW MY RIGHTS!
RIGHTS? MY BOY, IN THIS COURT ONLY AMERICANS HAVE RIGHTS! NOW HOW DO YOU PLEAD?
YOU MUST BE OUTTA YOUR GOURD, MAN! THIS IS NO COURT!
---I DON'T KNOW WHAT KIND OF TRIP YOU'RE ON, BUT IT'S A REAL BUMMER!
12


SO WHY DON'T YOU PLAY SUPER-HERO WITH SOMEBODY ELSE AND LET ME SPLIT?
IF YOU WANNA DO THE FREAKY DRESS BIT, YOU CAN TRY THE STRIP! YOU'LL REALLY WIG THEM OUT IN THAT GETUP!
AS FOR ME, I'M JUST A LEGAL CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTOR WHO DOESN'T DIG VIET NAM, AND---
ENOUGH! YOU STAND CONVICTED BY YOUR OWN WORDS!
I FIND YOU GUILTY OF HIGH TREASON AGAINST THE UNITED STATES AND SENTENCE YOU TO---
THE LIVING DEATH!
13.

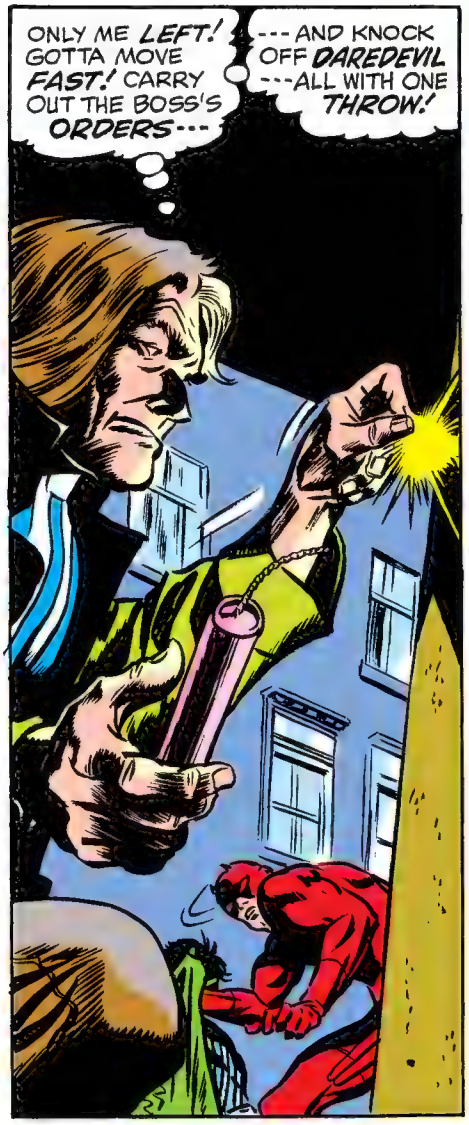

JUSTICE IS DONE!
AND THE ROAD TO TRUE DEMOCRACY IS A STEP SHORTER!
REMOVE THE YOUTH--AND DISPOSE OF HIM IN THE USUAL MANNER! THEN RETURN TO YOUR PATROLS---
---AND CONTINUE TO TAKE INTO CUSTODY ANY-ONE YOU SUSPECT OF SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES--- SUCH AS PEACE RALLIES! YOU KNOW WHAT TO DO!
SURE, BOSS! KEEP AMERICA FREE!
THEN, WHEN THE HOODED FIGURE IS ONCE AGAIN ALONE---
CLICK!
WELL, LOOKS LIKE THINGS ARE GOING JUST PERFECT IN NEW YORK--- EVEN MORE TROUBLE THAN I EXPECTED!
THE WAY THIS RIOT LOOKS, HUNDREDS OF THOSE COMMIE DUPES'LL BE IN JAIL BEFORE TONIGHT'S OVER! MATTER OF FACT, I'M SURE OF IT!
BUT, FOR A MORE ON-THE-SPOT VIEW OF THE CHAOS IN GOTHAM---
NOW WHERE ARE THEY GOING IN SUCH A HURRY? GOOD TIME TO ROB A BANK---
---BUT THEIR BAGS ARE TOO SMALL FOR MONEY! JUST THE RIGHT SIZE FOR---

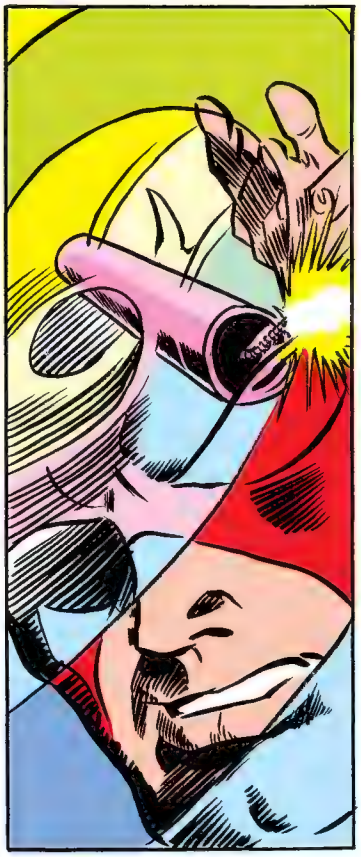

YORK HILTON
EXPLOSIVES!

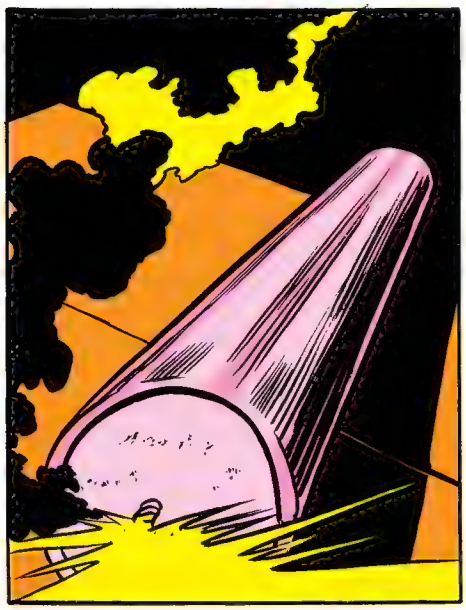

SORRY TO BE A PARTY POOPER, GANG---
--- BUT YOU SHOULDN'T TRY TO KILL THE VEEP---
---JUST 'CAUSE YOU WERE DUMB ENOUGH TO BET ON HIM IN THE HOPE DESERT CLASSIC!

15.

YOU--- YOU GOT US ALL WRONG, MAN! WE'RE PATRIOTS! WE WERE TRYIN' TO---
--- SET OFF SOME FIREWORKS--- TO WELCOME AGNEW, I SUPPOSE!
NICE TRY-- BUT IT'S NOT THE FOURTH OF JULY YET!
I'LL CLAM 'IM UP, GUYS---
YOU AND WHO ELSE? THE DOXEE COMPANY, MAYBE?!
SOK!
NOW---
LIKE THE DODGE SHERIFF SAYS---
LET'S GRAB HIM!
KERRAKK!
YOAH IN A HEAP'A TROUBLE, BOYS!

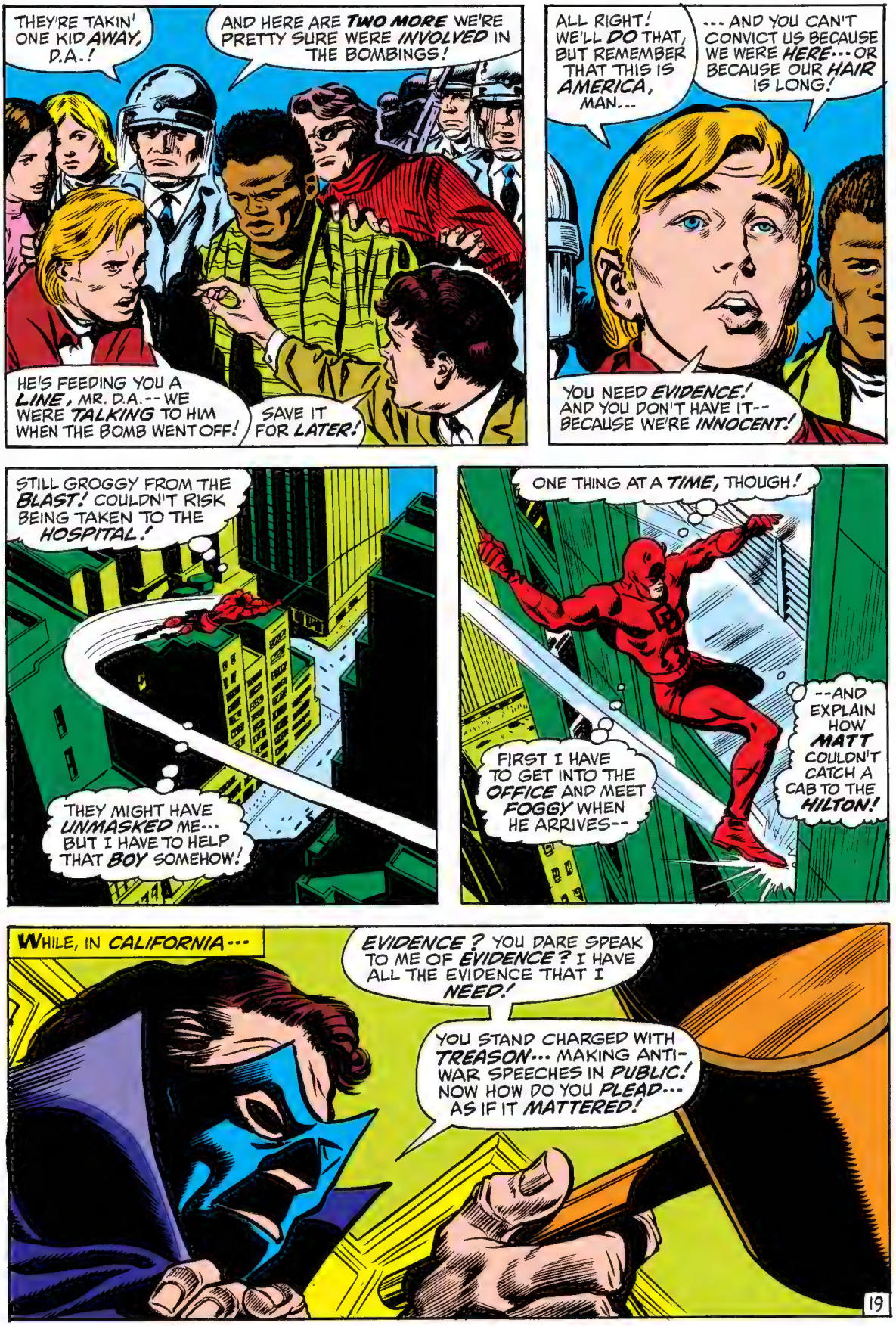

ONLY ME LEFT! GOTTA MOVE FAST! CARRY OUT THE BOSS'S ORDERS---
---AND KNOCK OFF DAREDEVIL ---ALL WITH ONE THROW!





BAROOM

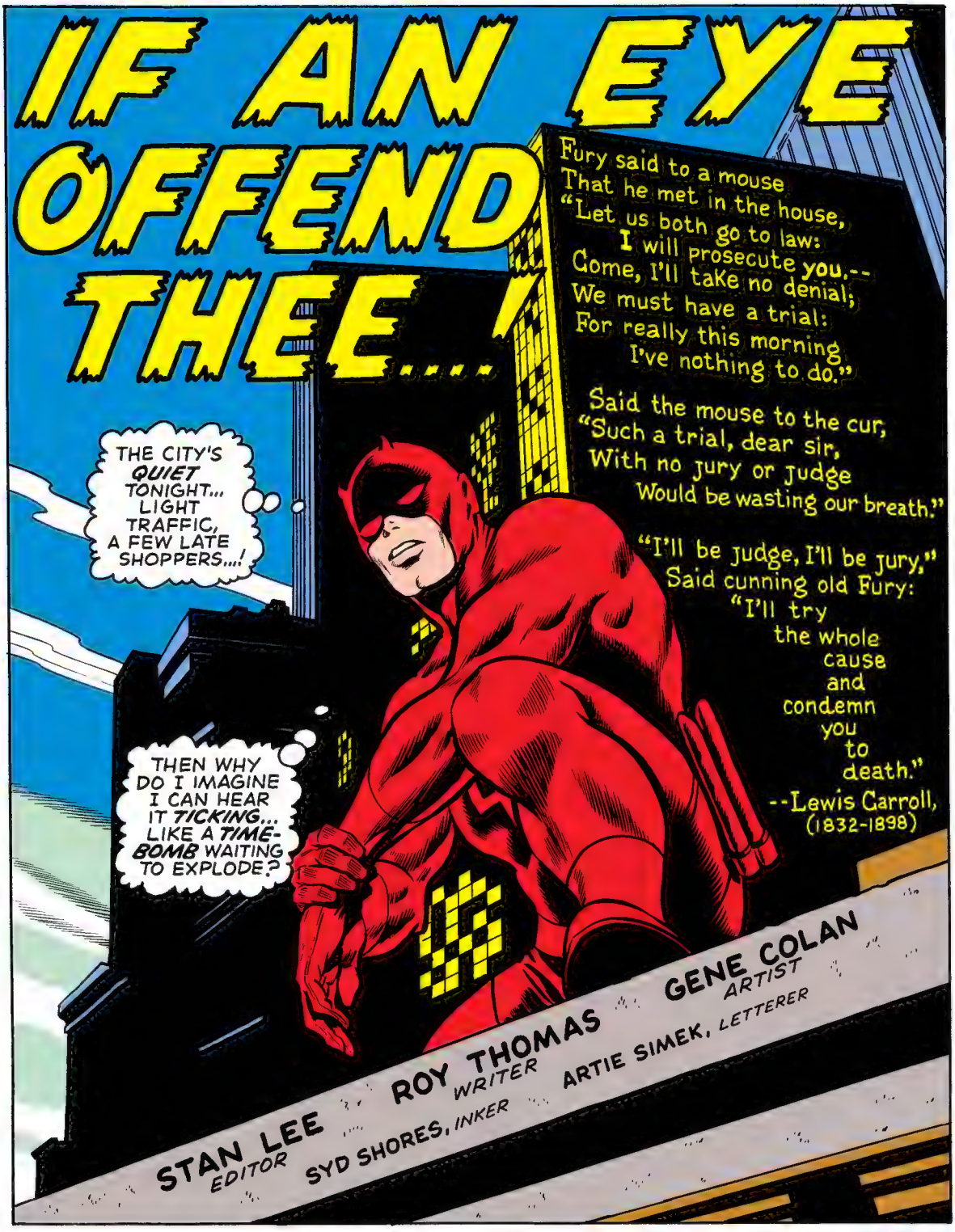
ANOTHER BOMB-- SOUNDED LIKE IT CAME FROM AROUND THE CORNER!
I THINK YOU'RE RIGHT, D.A.. LET'S GO!
CONVENT
HEY, IT'S DAREDEVIL.' THE BLAST MUST'VE GOT HIM! YOU OKAY, D.D.?
FREEZE, KID! WE'VE GOT YOU COVERED!
YOU'RE UNDER ARREST, PUNK! MOVE AWAY FROM THE MASKED MAN!
LOOKS LIKE WE GOT US A BOMBER--- LONG HAIR AND ALL!
WAIT, OFFICER! YOU'RE MAKING A MISTAKE!
THIS BOY WAS ONLY---
YOU'RE GROGGY, DAREDEVIL! WE'LL HANDLE THIS!
BUT I DIDN'T DO ANYTHING!
BETTER SAVE IT FOR THE JUDGE, BUDDY! WE DON'T GO EASY ON BOMBERS IN THIS CITY!
I WAS JUST PASSING BY! DAREDEVIL WILL TELL YOU THAT, WON'T YOU?
NEED AN AMBULANCE HERE?
LOOKS LIKE WE DON'T! THERE GOES THE PATIENT! GUESS HE FIGURED YOU WERE GUILTY TOO, KID...AND HE DIDN'T AIM TO BE YOUR ALIBI!
C'MON! YOU'RE GOIN' TO THE STATION!


THEY'RE TAKIN' ONE KID AWAY, D.A.!
AND HERE ARE TWO MORE WE'RE PRETTY SURE WERE INVOLVED IN THE BOMBINGS!
HE'S FEEDING YOU A LINE, MR. D.A.-- WE WERE TALKING TO HIM WHEN THE BOMB WENT OFF!
SAVE IT FOR LATER!
ALL RIGHT! WE'LL DO THAT, BUT REMEMBER THAT THIS IS AMERICA, MAN...
--- AND YOU CAN'T CONVICT US BECAUSE WE WERE HERE--- OR BECAUSE OUR HAIR IS LONG!
YOU NEED EVIDENCE! AND YOU DON'T HAVE IT-- BECAUSE WE'RE INNOCENT!
STILL GROGGY FROM THE BLAST! COULDN'T RISK BEING TAKEN TO THE HOSPITAL!
THEY MIGHT HAVE UNMASKED ME... BUT I HAVE TO HELP THAT BOY SOMEHOW!
ONE THING AT A TIME, THOUGH!
FIRST I HAVE TO GET INTO THE OFFICE AND MEET FOGGY WHEN HE ARRIVES--
--AND EXPLAIN HOW MATT COULDN'T CATCH A CAB TO THE HILTON!
WHILE, IN CALIFORNIA---
EVIDENCE? YOU DARE SPEAK TO ME OF EVIDENCE? I HAVE ALL THE EVIDENCE THAT I NEED!
YOU STAND CHARGED WITH TREASON... MAKING ANTI-WAR SPEECHES IN PUBLIC! NOW HOW DO YOU PLEAD... AS IF IT MATTERED!

COME OFF IT, MAN! YOU'RE A REAL ZONKED-OUT DUDE AND EVERYTHING, BUT---
GUILTY!
AND YOU'LL RECEIVE THE USUAL SENTENCE!
THREE DAYS LATER---
MY FELLOW AMERICANS, VICTORY IS NOW WITHIN OUR GRASP--- AND I INTEND TO SEE THAT IT DOES NOT ESCAPE US!
NEXT WEEK, THE NOW-FABLED NEW YORK THREE ARE TO BE ARRAIGNED FOR THE HILTON BOMBINGS---
BUT IT WILL BE FAR MORE! IT WILL BE A TRIAL--- AND I WILL BE THE JUDGE!
AND THERE, WHILE THE WORLD WATCHES, THE TRAITORS WILL DIE!
MORNING, PARTNER! SORRY I'M LATE--- I BURNED THE MIDNIGHT OIL ON THE NEW YORK THREE CASE!
IT'S A BUM RAP, MATT! I'M POSITIVE THOSE KIDS AREN'T GUILTY!
SO AM I, FOGGY---BUT WE'VE GOT TO PROSECUTE--- DON'T WE?
YES...YES, WE DO...AND MAY GOD FORGIVE US!
NEXT: THE TRIAL OF THE NEW YORK THREE... "GIVE ME LIBERTY...OR GIVE ME DEATH!"

DARE-DEVIL
15¢
71
DEC
DAREDEVIL
THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
THE TRIBUNE FINDS DAREDEVIL GUILTY..
AND THE SENTENCE IS... DEATH!
"IF AN EYE OFFEND THEE-
MARVEL COMICS GROUP

DAREDEVIL, THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR!™


IF AN EYE OFFEND THEE....!
Fury said to a mouse
That he met in the house,
"Let us both go to law:
I will prosecute you.--
Come, I'll take no denial;
We must have a trial:
For really this morning
I've nothing to do."
Said the mouse to the cur,
"Such a trial, dear sir,
With no jury or judge
Would be wasting our breath."
"I'll be judge, I'll be jury,"
Said cunning old Fury:
"I'll try
the whole
cause
and
condemn
you
to
death."
--Lewis Carroll,
(1832-1898)
THE CITY'S QUIET TONIGHT... LIGHT TRAFFIC, A FEW LATE SHOPPERS...!
THEN WHY DO I IMAGINE I CAN HEAR IT TICKING... LIKE A TIME-BOMB WAITING TO EXPLODE?
STAN LEE EDITOR
ROY THOMAS WRITER
GENE COLAN ARTIST
SYD SHORES, INKER
ARTIE SIMEK, LETTERER

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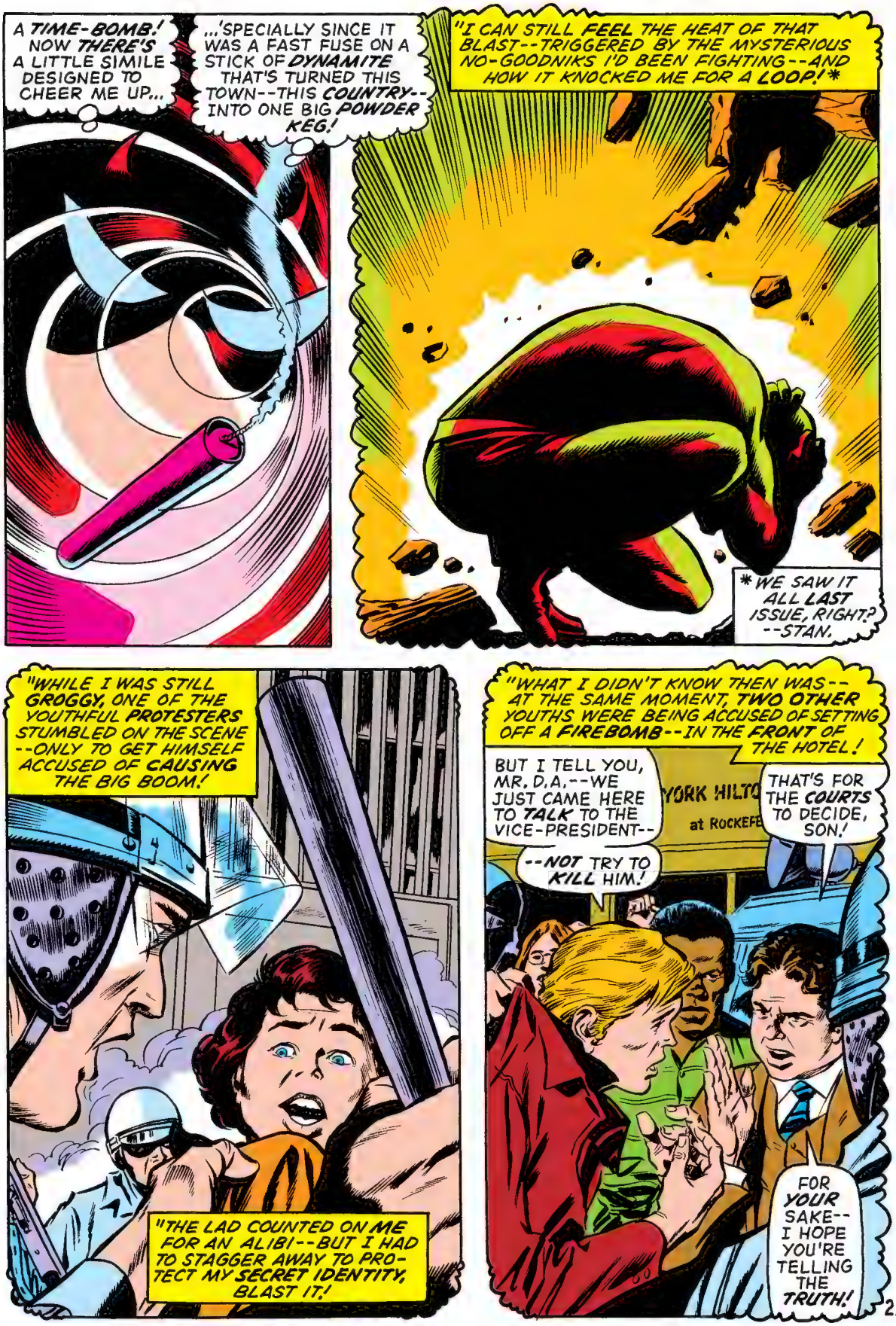
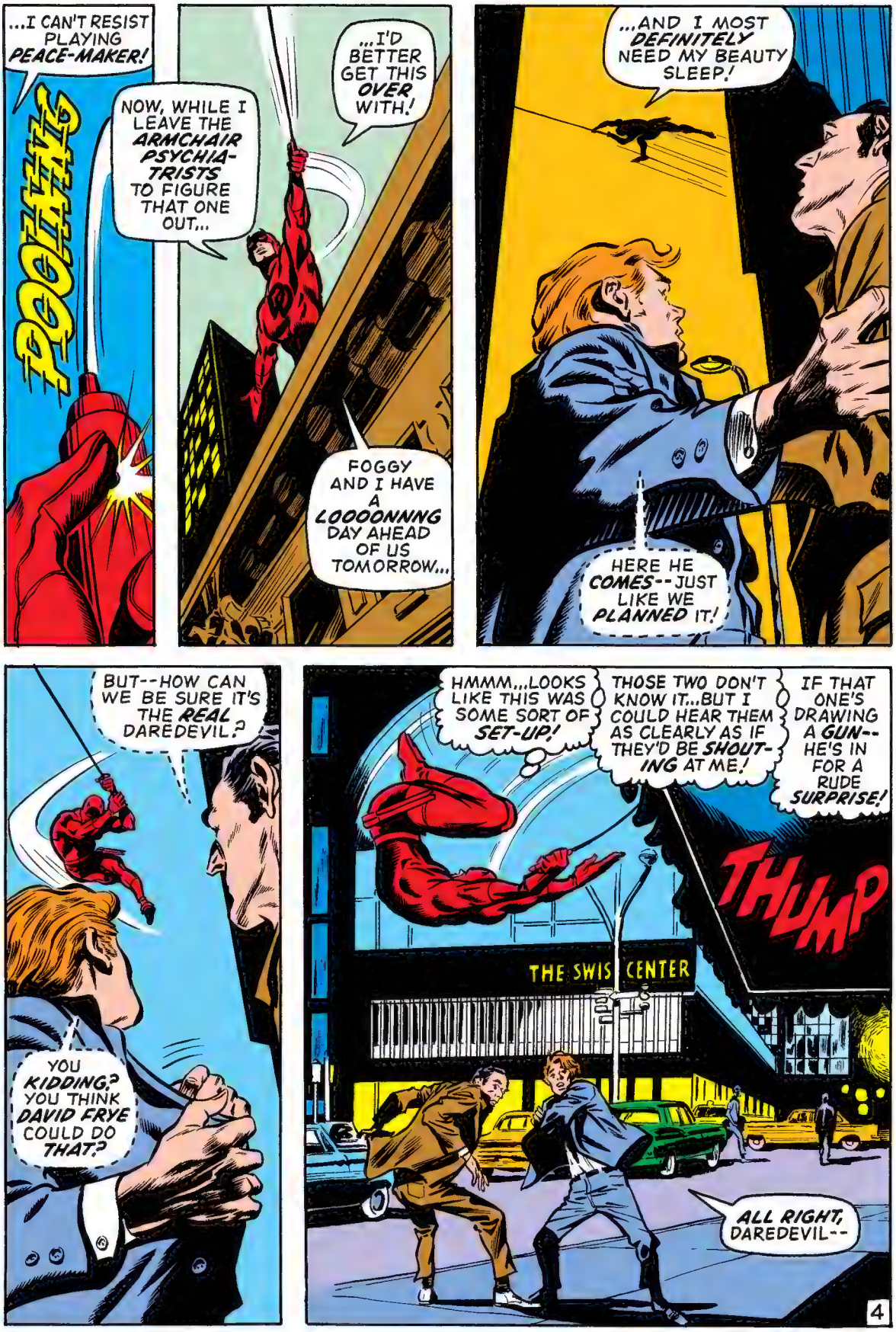
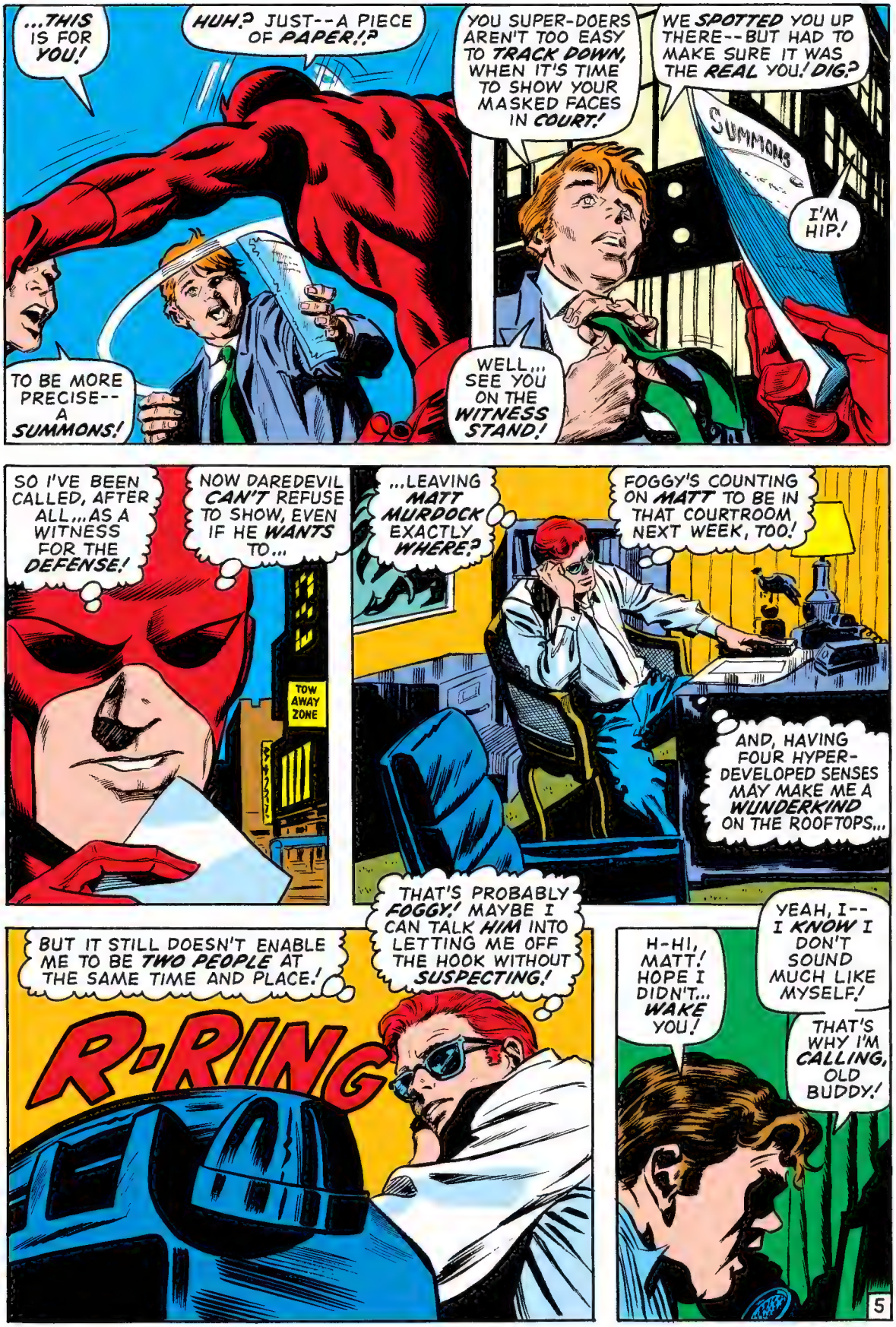
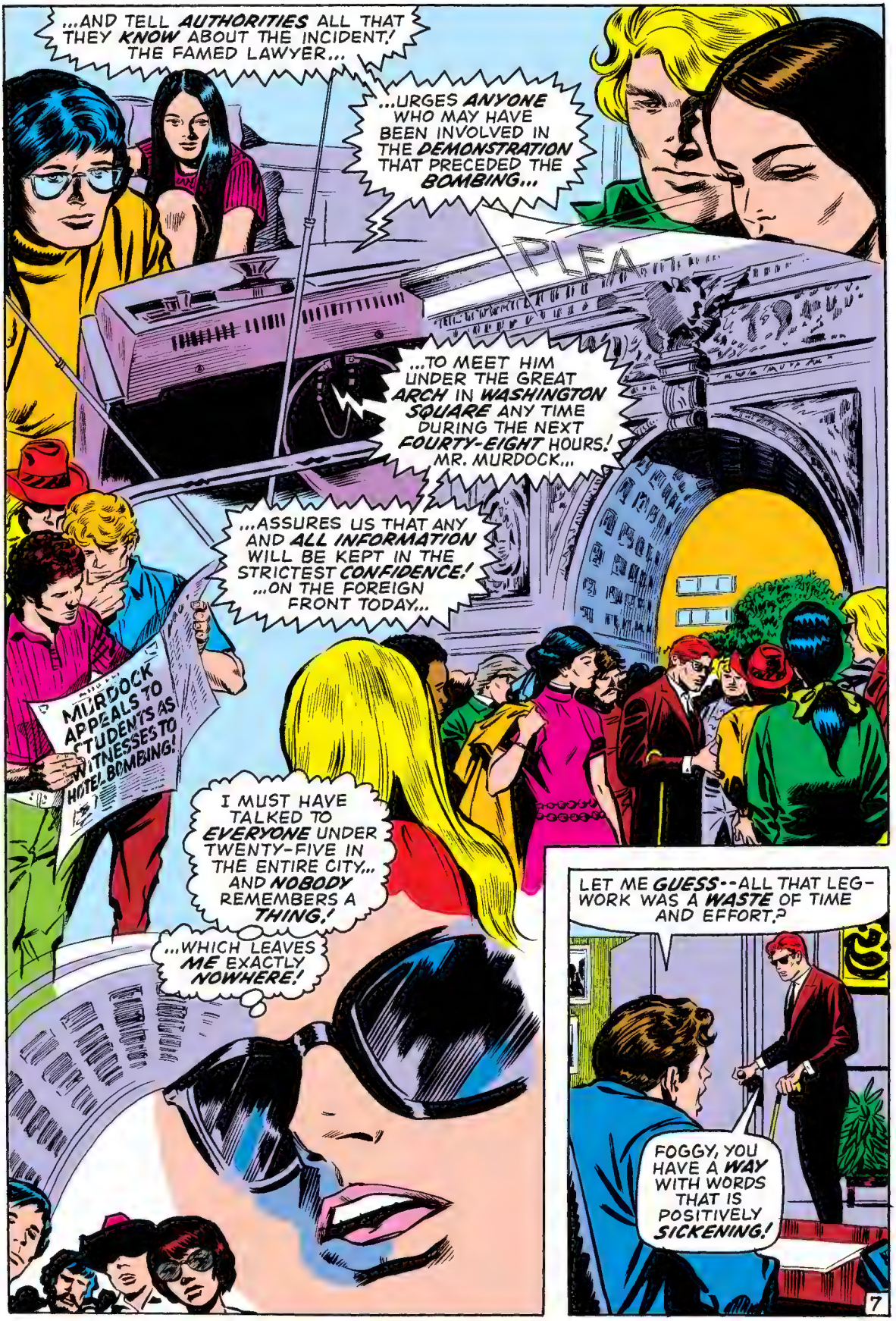

A TIME-BOMB! NOW THERE'S A LITTLE SIMILE DESIGNED TO CHEER ME UP...
...'SPECIALLY SINCE IT WAS A FAST FUSE ON A STICK OF DYNAMITE THAT'S TURNED THIS TOWN--THIS COUNTRY--INTO ONE BIG POWDER KEG!
"I CAN STILL FEEL THE HEAT OF THAT BLAST--TRIGGERED BY THE MYSTERIOUS NO-GOODNIKS I'D BEEN FIGHTING--AND HOW IT KNOCKED ME FOR A LOOP!*
*WE SAW IT ALL LAST ISSUE, RIGHT? --STAN.
"WHILE I WAS STILL GROGGY, ONE OF THE YOUTHFUL PROTESTERS STUMBLED ON THE SCENE --ONLY TO GET HIMSELF ACCUSED OF CAUSING THE BIG BOOM!
"THE LAD COUNTED ON ME FOR AN ALIBI--BUT I HAD TO STAGGER AWAY TO PROTECT MY SECRET IDENTITY, BLAST IT!
"WHAT I DIDN'T KNOW THEN WAS--AT THE SAME MOMENT, TWO OTHER YOUTHS WERE BEING ACCUSED OF SETTING OFF A FIREBOMB--IN THE FRONT OF THE HOTEL!
BUT I TELL YOU, MR. D.A.,--WE JUST CAME HERE TO TALK TO THE VICE-PRESIDENT--
--NOT TRY TO KILL HIM!
THAT'S FOR THE COURTS TO DECIDE, SON!
FOR YOUR SAKE--I HOPE YOU'RE TELLING THE TRUTH!
2.

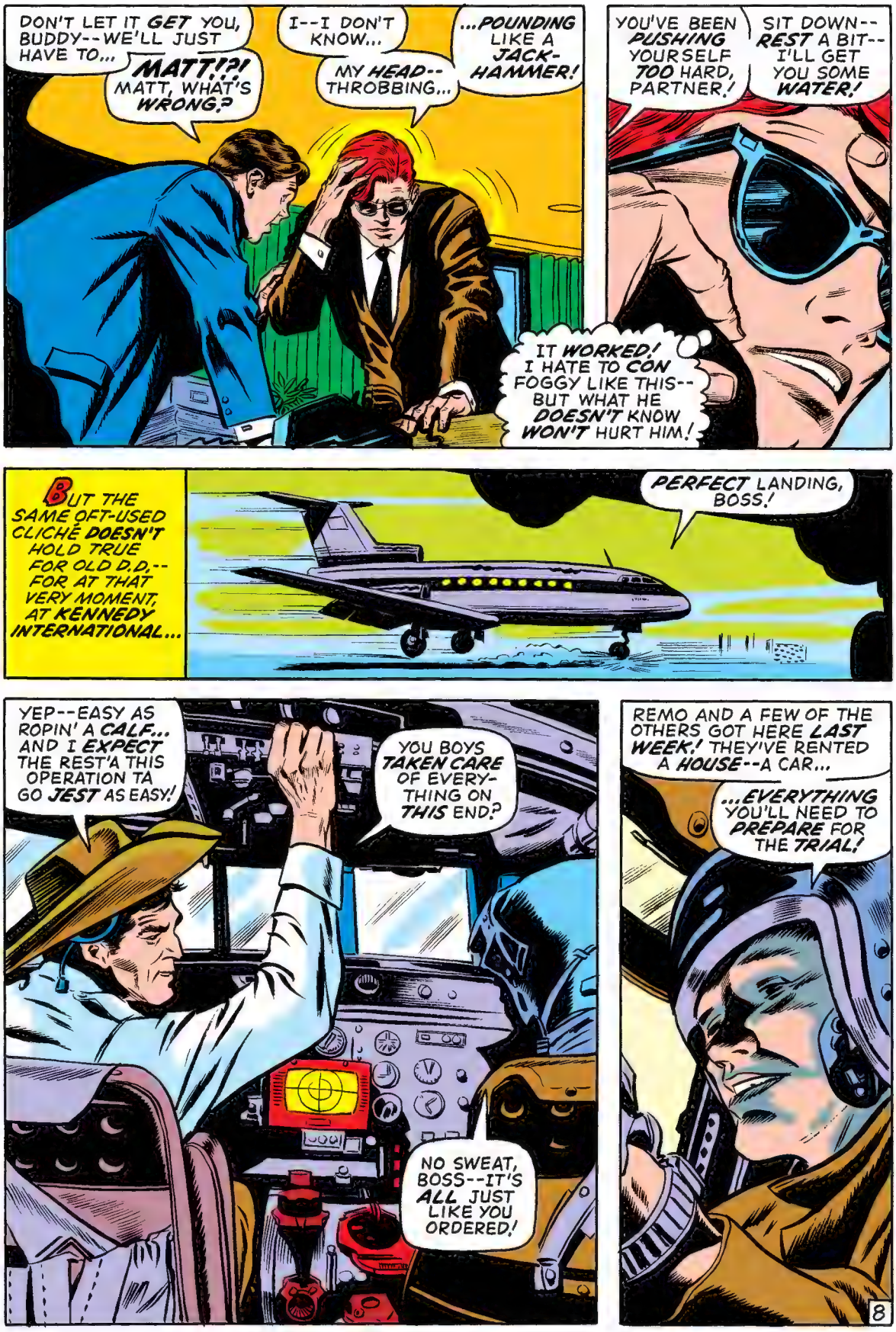
THAT WAS WEEKS AGO! ONLY ANOTHER WEEK... TILL THE TRIAL!
AS THE D.A. AND HIS MAN FRIDAY, FOGGY AND I HAVE TO PROSECUTE THOSE KIDS...
BUT THE EVIDENCE AGAINST THEM IS SO CIRCUMSTANTIAL, WE HAVEN'T GOT A PRAYER--THANK THE LORD!
WITH LUCK, OL' DD HERE WON'T EVEN HAVE TO APPEAR AS A MATERIAL WITNESS, SO--
UH OH! WHAT'S THAT?
"MY EARS--AND MY EVER-READY RADAR SENSE--PICKING UP SOME SORT OF SCUFFLING IN THE STREET BELOW--!"
SHOVE ME, WILL YA, YOU--
WELL, SO MUCH FOR QUIET TIME IN FUN CITY!
IF I WERE ATTIRED AS POOR MATT MURDOCK, COMPLETE WITH HIS BLIND MAN'S CANE, I'D PROBABLY LET THOSE TWO SLUG IT OUT!
BUT DRESSED IN THESE RED LONG-JOHNS... WITH MY FAITHFUL BILLY CLUB AT MY SIDE...

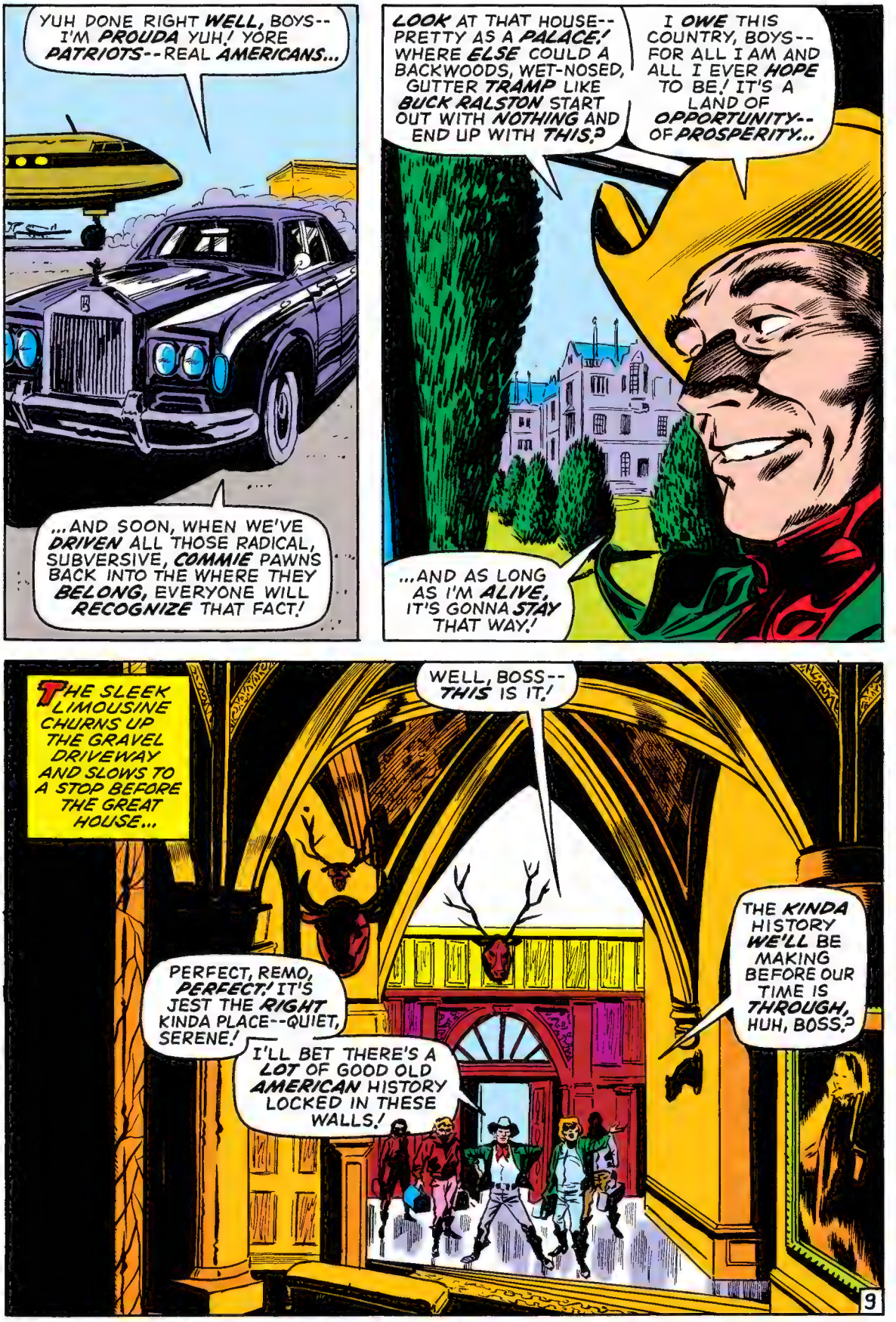

...I CAN'T RESIST PLAYING PEACE-MAKER!
SMACK!
NOW, WHILE I LEAVE THE ARMCHAIR PSYCHIA-TRISTS TO FIGURE THAT ONE OUT...
...I'D BETTER GET THIS OVER WITH!
FOGGY AND I HAVE A LOOOONNNG DAY AHEAD OF US TOMORROW...
...AND I MOST DEFINITELY NEED MY BEAUTY SLEEP!
HERE HE COMES--JUST LIKE WE PLANNED IT!
BUT--HOW CAN WE BE SURE IT'S THE REAL DAREDEVIL?
YOU KIDDING? YOU THINK DAVID FRYE COULD DO THAT?
HMMM...LOOKS LIKE THIS WAS SOME SORT OF SET-UP!
THOSE TWO DON'T KNOW IT...BUT I COULD HEAR THEM AS CLEARLY AS IF THEY'D BE SHOUTING AT ME!
IF THAT ONE'S DRAWING A GUN--HE'S IN FOR A RUDE SURPRISE!
THUMP
THE SWIS CENTER
ALL RIGHT, DAREDEVIL--
4


...THIS IS FOR YOU!
HUH? JUST--A PIECE OF PAPER!?
TO BE MORE PRECISE-- A SUMMONS!
YOU SUPER-DOERS AREN'T TOO EASY TO TRACK DOWN, WHEN IT'S TIME TO SHOW YOUR MASKED FACES IN COURT!
WE SPOTTED YOU UP THERE--BUT HAD TO MAKE SURE IT WAS THE REAL YOU! DIG?
SUMMONS
I'M HIP!
WELL... SEE YOU ON THE WITNESS STAND!
SO I'VE BEEN CALLED, AFTER ALL...AS A WITNESS FOR THE DEFENSE!
NOW DAREDEVIL CAN'T REFUSE TO SHOW, EVEN IF HE WANTS TO...
TOW AWAY ZONE
...LEAVING MATT MURDOCK EXACTLY WHERE?
FOGGY'S COUNTING ON MATT TO BE IN THAT COURTROOM NEXT WEEK, TOO!
AND, HAVING FOUR HYPER-DEVELOPED SENSES MAY MAKE ME A WUNDERKIND ON THE ROOFTOPS...
BUT IT STILL DOESN'T ENABLE ME TO BE TWO PEOPLE AT THE SAME TIME AND PLACE!
THAT'S PROBABLY FOGGY! MAYBE I CAN TALK HIM INTO LETTING ME OFF THE HOOK WITHOUT SUSPECTING!
R-RING
H-HI, MATT! HOPE I DIDN'T... WAKE YOU!
YEAH, I-- I KNOW I DON'T SOUND MUCH LIKE MYSELF!
THAT'S WHY I'M CALLING, OLD BUDDY!

I D-DON'T KNOW WHAT I CAUGHT--BUT IT'S G-GOT ME... OUT-NUMBERED! MY THROAT FEELS LIKE THE HULK'S BEEN MARCHING THRU IT!
UH, HUH--THAT'S WHAT THE DOC SAID--NO RUNNING AT THE MOUTH FOR THE NEXT SEVERAL WEEKS!
...SO IT LOOKS LIKE THE BALL-GAME IS YOURS, PAL!
OH, GREAT--ALL I NEED NOW IS WORLD WAR III AND MY DAY WILL BE COMPLETE!... BUT I CAN'T LET FOGGY KNOW THE SPOT HE'S PUT ME IN!
I'LL GET THE BALL ROLLING RIGHT AWAY, FOGGY! YOU JUST GET TO BED AND TAKE IT EASY!
WE CAN'T AFFORD TO LOSE THE ONLY D.A. WE'VE GOT!... G'NIGHT!
MOMENTS LATER...
HELLO, DAILY BUGLE?... LET ME SPEAK TO NICK DILLMAN!
...TELL HIM IT'S AN OLD "CELLMATE" OF HIS!
H'LO? WHO? MATT MURDOCK? WHY, YOU OLD SON-OF-A-STATUTE--WHAT KEEPS YOU UP THIS TIME OF NIGHT?
IF IT'S THAT FIVE BUCKS I OWE YA, I'LL... HUH?
OH, SURE--NO SWEAT! I CAN HAVE IT IN ALL OF TOMORROW'S EDITIONS!
NO--IT'S NO PROBLEM! FOR YOU, BOYCHICK, NOTHING'S TOO GOOD!
AND SO, THE NEXT MORNING BRINGS WITH IT...
...ASSISTANT D.A. MURDOCK'S SEARCH FOR WITNESSES TO THE ALMOST-FATAL BOMBING OUTSIDE THE N.Y. HILTON SEVERAL WEEKS AGO WIDENED TODAY!
Daily News
DAILY BUGLE
1ST EDITION
NEW YORK'S PICTURE NEWSPAPER
New York, N.Y. 10017, Monday, October
D.A. SENDS APPEAL FOR ANY WITNESS HOTEL BOMBIN
FAMED LAWYER
MR. MURDOCK HAS APPEALED TO ANY CITIZEN WITH A SENSE OF JUSTICE TO COME FORWARD...


...AND TELL AUTHORITIES ALL THAT THEY KNOW ABOUT THE INCIDENT! THE FAMED LAWYER...
...URGES ANYONE WHO MAY HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN THE DEMONSTRATION THAT PRECEDED THE BOMBING...
PLEA
...TO MEET HIM UNDER THE GREAT ARCH IN WASHINGTON SQUARE ANY TIME DURING THE NEXT FOURTY-EIGHT HOURS! MR. MURDOCK...
...ASSURES US THAT ANY AND ALL INFORMATION WILL BE KEPT IN THE STRICTEST CONFIDENCE! ...ON THE FOREIGN FRONT TODAY...
MURDOCK APPEALS TO STUDENTS AS WITNESSES TO HOTEL BOMBING!
I MUST HAVE TALKED TO EVERYONE UNDER TWENTY-FIVE IN THE ENTIRE CITY... AND NOBODY REMEMBERS A THING!
...WHICH LEAVES ME EXACTLY NOWHERE!
LET ME GUESS--ALL THAT LEG-WORK WAS A WASTE OF TIME AND EFFORT?
FOGGY, YOU HAVE A WAY WITH WORDS THAT IS POSITIVELY SICKENING!

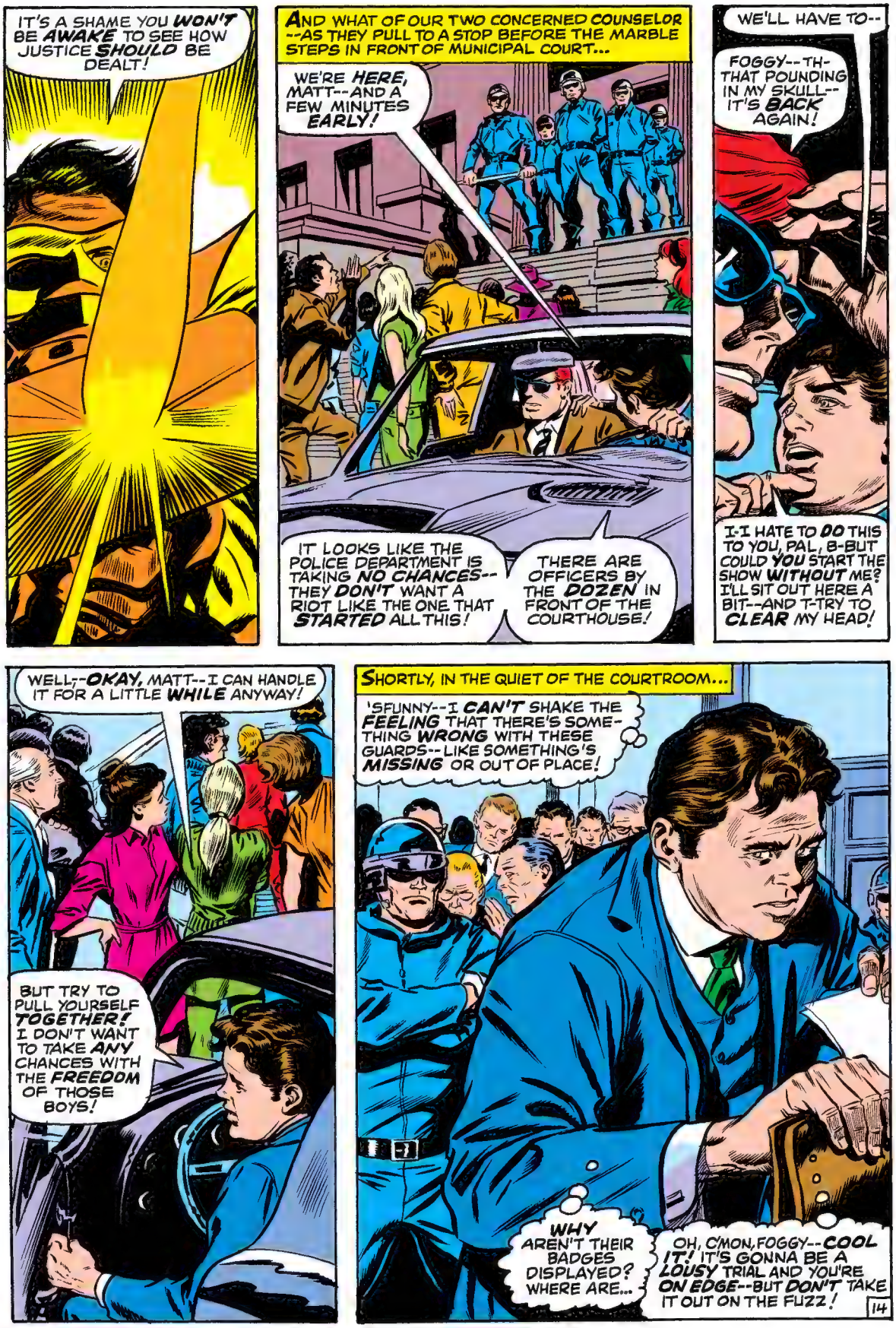

DON'T LET IT GET YOU, BUDDY--WE'LL JUST HAVE TO...
MATT!?! MATT, WHAT'S WRONG?
I--I DON'T KNOW...
MY HEAD--THROBBING...
...POUNDING LIKE A JACK-HAMMER!
YOU'VE BEEN PUSHING YOURSELF TOO HARD, PARTNER!
SIT DOWN--REST A BIT--I'LL GET YOU SOME WATER!
IT WORKED! I HATE TO CON FOGGY LIKE THIS--BUT WHAT HE DOESN'T KNOW WON'T HURT HIM!
BUT THE SAME OFT-USED CLICHÉ DOESN'T HOLD TRUE FOR OLD D.D.--FOR AT THAT VERY MOMENT, AT KENNEDY INTERNATIONAL...
PERFECT LANDING, BOSS!
YEP--EASY AS ROPIN' A CALF... AND I EXPECT THE REST'A THIS OPERATION TA GO JEST AS EASY!
YOU BOYS TAKEN CARE OF EVERY-THING ON THIS END?
NO SWEAT, BOSS--IT'S ALL JUST LIKE YOU ORDERED!
REMO AND A FEW OF THE OTHERS GOT HERE LAST WEEK! THEY'VE RENTED A HOUSE--A CAR...
...EVERYTHING YOU'LL NEED TO PREPARE FOR THE TRIAL!


YUH DONE RIGHT WELL, BOYS-- I'M PROUDA YUH! YORE PATRIOTS--REAL AMERICANS...
...AND SOON, WHEN WE'VE DRIVEN ALL THOSE RADICAL, SUBVERSIVE, COMMIE PAWNS BACK INTO THE WHERE THEY BELONG, EVERYONE WILL RECOGNIZE THAT FACT!
LOOK AT THAT HOUSE-- PRETTY AS A PALACE! WHERE ELSE COULD A BACKWOODS, WET-NOSED, GUTTER TRAMP LIKE BUCK RALSTON START OUT WITH NOTHING AND END UP WITH THIS?
I OWE THIS COUNTRY, BOYS-- FOR ALL I AM AND ALL I EVER HOPE TO BE! IT'S A LAND OF OPPORTUNITY-- OF PROSPERITY...
...AND AS LONG AS I'M ALIVE, IT'S GONNA STAY THAT WAY!
THE SLEEK LIMOUSINE CHURNS UP THE GRAVEL DRIVEWAY AND SLOWS TO A STOP BEFORE THE GREAT HOUSE...
WELL, BOSS-- THIS IS IT!
PERFECT, REMO, PERFECT! IT'S JEST THE RIGHT KINDA PLACE--QUIET, SERENE!
I'LL BET THERE'S A LOT OF GOOD OLD AMERICAN HISTORY LOCKED IN THESE WALLS!
THE KINDA HISTORY WE'LL BE MAKING BEFORE OUR TIME IS THROUGH, HUH, BOSS?
9

YOU BOYS TAKE CARE OF THINGS DOWN HERE!
THERE'S A LOT OF HEAVY THINKIN' I'VE GOT TO DO BEFORE THE TRIBUNE WALKS THE VELVET HALLS OF JUSTICE ONCE MORE!
A CHILL WIND BLOWS DOWN FROM THE VALLEY, CARRYING THE SCENT OF CHANGING LEAVES AND AUTUMN PAST A CERTAIN UPSTAIRS WINDOW...
LORDY, WHAT A FRAGRANCE...THAT'S WHAT AMERICA'S REALLY ABOUT!
ALL THE LONG-HAIRS, THE COMMIES, THE REVOLUTIONARIES --ALL THE BLIND, MINDLESS FOOLS WHO KEEP POLLUTING THIS COUNTRY'S SOUL WITH THEIR SPEECHES AND THEIR LIES--
THOSE WHO TRY TO UNDERMINE MY AMERICA AND ALL IT STANDS FOR HAVE TO BE STOPPED!
BUT THE COURTS ARE INEFFECTUAL--WORTHLESS!
DAY AFTER DAY, THIS GREAT NATION IS GOING TO HELL IN A HAYWAGON ...AND THERE'S BEEN NOBODY AROUND TO STOP IT...
NOBODY, UNTIL NOW!
FOR I--AND ALL WHO FOLLOW ME--SHALL CLEANSE THIS EVIL FROM AMERICAN SOIL!
THE NEW YORK THREE WILL BE JUST THE BEGINNING --AN EXAMPLE--A WARNING TO EVERY COMMIE PINKO IN THIS COUNTRY...
THE TIME OF RETRIBUTION IS HERE...
JUDGMENT DAY IS COMING!!!

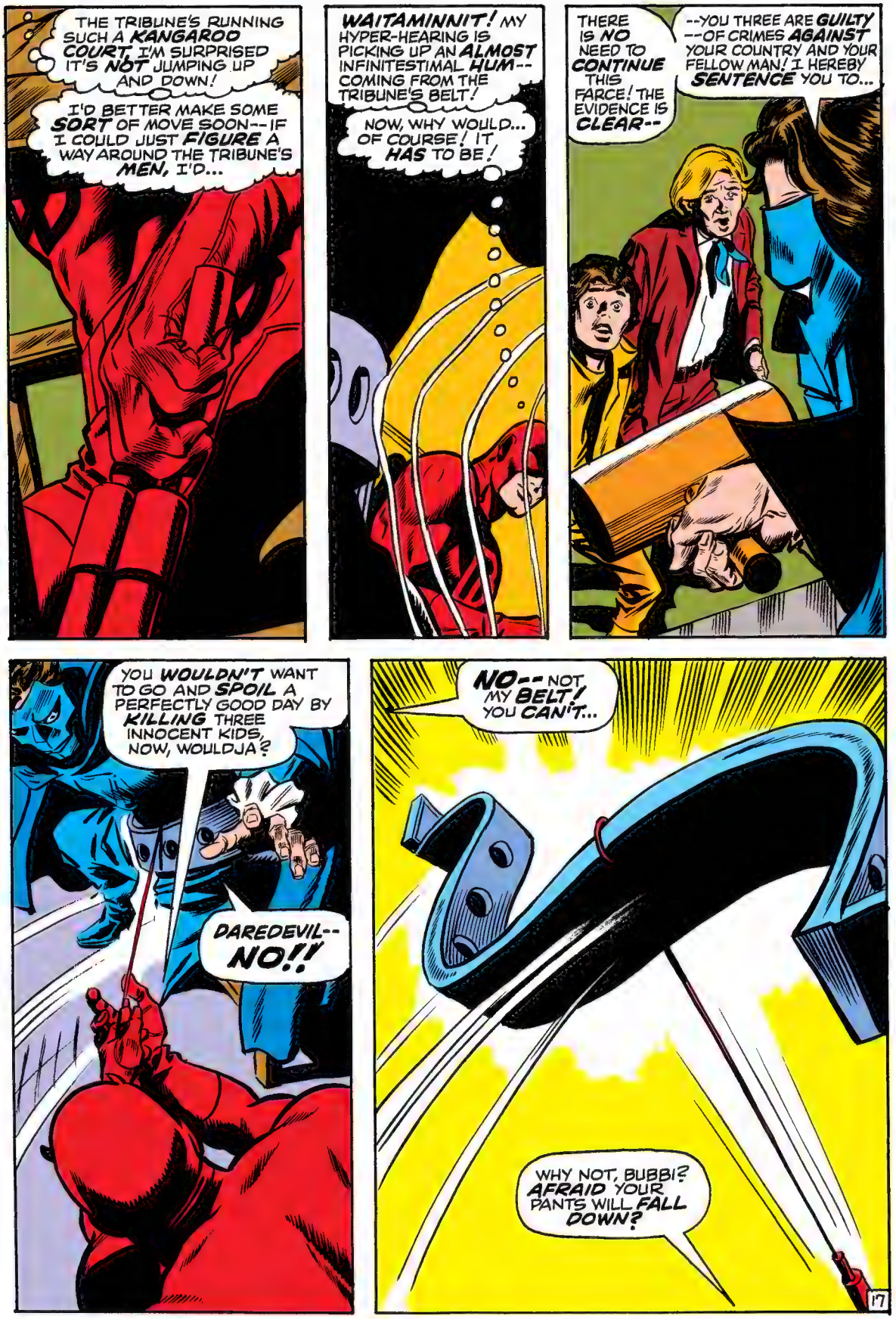
IN THE DAYS AND WEEKS THAT FOLLOW, THE YOUTH OF THE CITY TAKES TO THE STREETS, RALLYING AROUND A SINGLE CAUSE, A SINGLE IDEA--WITH A SINGLE CRY ON THEIR LIPS...
FREE THE NEW YORK THREE!!!
FREEDOM NOW!
FREEDOM NOW!
OKAY, PAL--WHY DON'TCHA REST YOUR TONSILS FOR A WHILE?
TAKE YOUR HAND OFF ME, OFFICER --I KNOW MY RIGHTS!
SO WHO DOESN'T THESE DAYS?
FREEDOM NOW!
ALL ACROSS TOWN, EVERYONE, IN THEIR OWN WAY, MAKES THEIR FEELINGS KNOWN...
...AND YOUR OPINION OF THE NEW YORK THREE TRIAL, MISS?
I THINK IT'S A DISGRACE --A MOCKERY OF JUSTICE!
THOSE THREE BOYS ARE BEING PROSECUTED SOLELY BECAUSE OF THEIR VIEWS--
THERE'S NO PROOF WHATEVER THAT THEY WERE INVOLVED IN THE BOMBINGS! THEY SHOULD...
WELL, MATT--HOW DOES IT FEEL TO BE ON THE WRONG SIDE, FOR A CHANGE?
CLICK!
NOT GOOD! I GET THE FEELING THEY SHOULD BE PAYING ME THIRTY PIECES OF SILVER TO HANDLE THIS CASE!
THOSE KIDS ARE INNOCENT--AND WE KNOW IT...
...BUT THE SLOW, STEADY WHEELS OF JUSTICE WILL HAVE TO KEEP TURNING UNTIL WE CAN PROVE IT!
WHICH REMINDS ME--WE'VE GOT A TRIAL TO GET TO...
IF WE DON'T SHOW UP IN COURT WITHIN A HALF HOUR, THOSE SAME SQUEAKY WHEELS WILL START TURNING WITHOUT US!
11

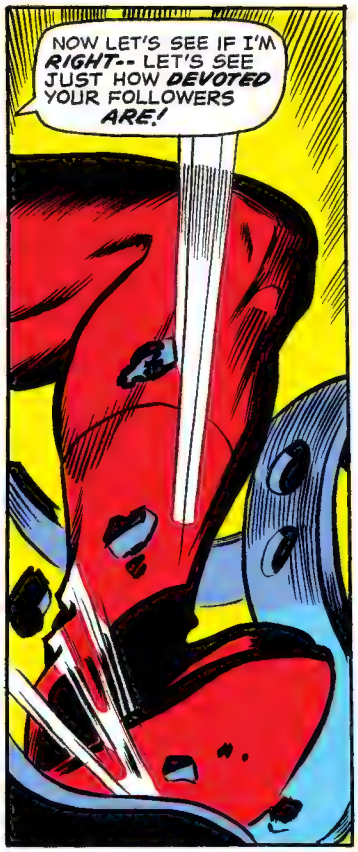
SHORTLY, IN FOGGY'S BASEMENT GARAGE...
WHAT ELSE CAN WE DO, MATT? IT'S THE LAW--AND WE'VE SWORN TO UPHOLD IT!
I KNOW, FOGGY--I JUST KEEP PRAYING THAT JUSTICE ISN'T AS BLIND AS I AM!
AND AT THE SAME MOMENT, A CERTAIN SOMBER, BLACK-CLOAKED FIGURE IS STRIDING DELIBERATELY DOWN THE SILENT HALLS OF JUSTICE TOWARD A LARGE, OAKEN DOOR...
TREAD SOFTLY, GENTLEMEN--
WE'RE ALMOST THERE!
JUDGE
NOW, EVERYONE REMEMBER--I WANT THIS TO BE QUICK, QUIET--AND PAINLESS!
THE JUDGE IS MERELY A MISGUIDED TOOL WHO NEEDS TO BE SHOWN THE TRUE PATH OF JUSTICE!
12
...AND I SHALL BE THE ONE TO SHOW HIM THE WAY!
WHA...? WHO ARE YOU?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN MY CHAMBERS?
THERE'S NO NEED TO CONCERN YOURSELF, FRIEND!
I'M MERELY AN ASSOCIATE--A FELLOW JUDGE...
13

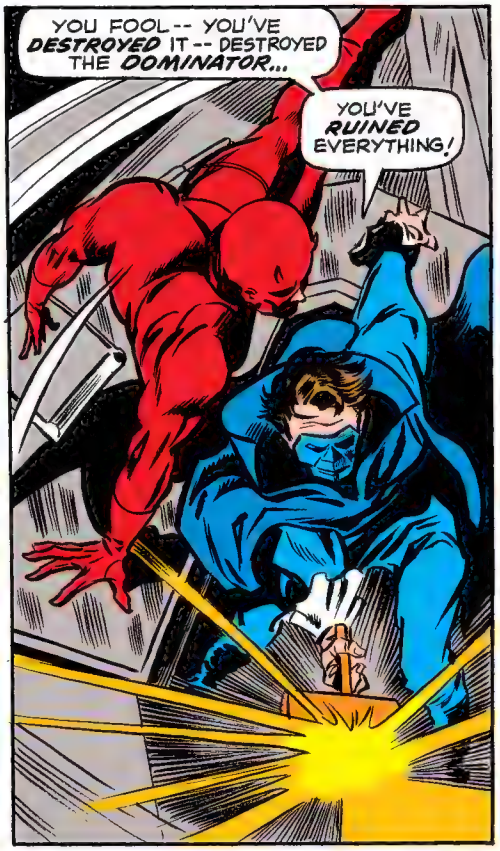

IT'S A SHAME YOU WON'T BE AWAKE TO SEE HOW JUSTICE SHOULD BE DEALT!
AND WHAT OF OUR TWO CONCERNED COUNSELOR --AS THEY PULL TO A STOP BEFORE THE MARBLE STEPS IN FRONT OF MUNICIPAL COURT...
WE'RE HERE, MATT--AND A FEW MINUTES EARLY!
IT LOOKS LIKE THE POLICE DEPARTMENT IS TAKING NO CHANCES-- THEY DON'T WANT A RIOT LIKE THE ONE THAT STARTED ALL THIS!
THERE ARE OFFICERS BY THE DOZEN IN FRONT OF THE COURTHOUSE!
WE'LL HAVE TO--
FOGGY--TH-THAT POUNDING IN MY SKULL--IT'S BACK AGAIN!
I-I HATE TO DO THIS TO YOU, PAL, B-BUT COULD YOU START THE SHOW WITHOUT ME? I'LL SIT OUT HERE A BIT--AND T-TRY TO CLEAR MY HEAD!
WELL,--OKAY, MATT--I CAN HANDLE IT FOR A LITTLE WHILE ANYWAY!
BUT TRY TO PULL YOURSELF TOGETHER! I DON'T WANT TO TAKE ANY CHANCES WITH THE FREEDOM OF THOSE BOYS!
SHORTLY, IN THE QUIET OF THE COURTROOM...
'SFUNNY--I CAN'T SHAKE THE FEELING THAT THERE'S SOMETHING WRONG WITH THESE GUARDS--LIKE SOMETHING'S MISSING OR OUT OF PLACE!
WHY AREN'T THEIR BADGES DISPLAYED? WHERE ARE...
OH, C'MON, FOGGY--COOL IT! IT'S GONNA BE A LOUSY TRIAL AND YOU'RE ON EDGE--BUT DON'T TAKE IT OUT ON THE FUZZ!
14

FOGGY TAKES HIS PLACE AND SECONDS LATER...
THESE AFFIDAVITS ARE ALL IN...
HEY, WHAT'S ALL THE COMMOTION ABOUT BACK THERE?
LOOK, IT'S DAREDEVIL!
WHAT'S HE DOING HERE?
DD? WOW--THE DEFENSE HAS GOT ITSELF QUITE A WITNESS!
THANK YOU, BAILIFF--I TRUST YOU WILL KEEP ORDER!
ALL RISE!! FOURTH DISTRICT COURT OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK IS NOW IN SESSION...
THE RIGHT HONORABLE TRIBUNE PRESIDING!
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN--WE ARE GATHERED TODAY IN THE WAKE OF THE MOST HEINOUS OF CRIMES TREASON!!
THOSE WHO STAND BEFORE YOU HAVE CONSPIRED TO DESTROY OUR GREAT NATION--
--AND WE ARE HERE TO MAKE CERTAIN THEY RECEIVE A FAIR TRIAL AND PROPER JUSTICE--
--BEFORE WE CONDEMN THEM TO DEATH!!!
15

I OBJECT! IF YOU'RE A JUSTICE THEN I'M JUDGE CRATER! I'LL...
COUNSELOR--YOU'RE OUT OF ORDER!
NOWHERE IN MY LAW-BOOKS DOES IT SAY THAT THE D.A. MAY SPEAK UNLESS SPOKEN TO!
I FIND YOU IN CONTEMPT OF COURT AND SENTENCE YOU TO UNCON-SCIOUSNESS!
THE TRIBUNE'S GOT ME UP AGAINST THE WALL! IF I MAKE A MOVE IN THIS CROWDED COURT-ROOM, SOMEBODY'S BOUND TO GET HURT IN THE SCUFFLE!
PSSST! YOU'RE DAREDEVIL!--WHY DON'T YOU DO SOME-THING?
NOW, BOYS--IT'S TIME!
I WAS RIGHT! ALL THOSE COPS FOGGY MENTIONED--I CAN SENSE THEM STRIPPING OFF THEIR UNIFORMS REVEALING COSTUMES BENEATH!
IF I HAD ATTACKED THE TRIBUNE, IT WOULD HAVE BEEN CHAOS IN HERE!
YOU--DAREDEVIL--TAKE THE WITNESS STAND! LET YOUR WORDS CONDEMN THE THREE TRAITORS WHO STAND BEFORE US!
...AND WHEN I CAME TO, THE BOY WAS STANDING OVER ME, HELPING ME TO MY FEET! I'M CON-VINCED THAT HE HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH...
OUT OF ORDER--WITNESS IS MAKING ASSUMPTIONS--THE JURY WILL DISREGARD DAREDEVIL'S COMMENTS!

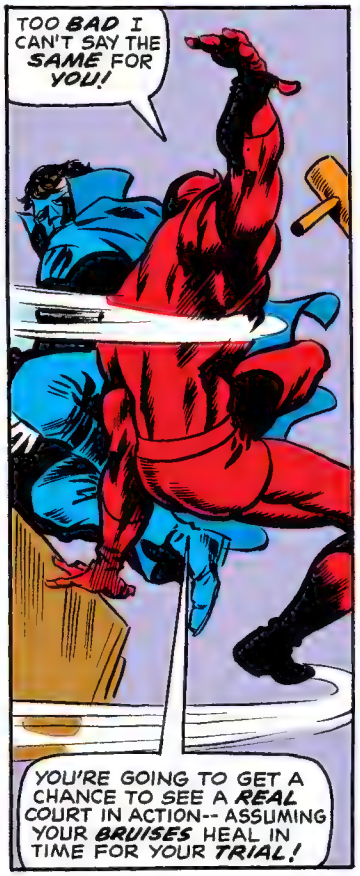

THE TRIBUNE'S RUNNING SUCH A KANGAROO COURT, I'M SURPRISED IT'S NOT JUMPING UP AND DOWN!
I'D BETTER MAKE SOME SORT OF MOVE SOON--IF I COULD JUST FIGURE A WAY AROUND THE TRIBUNE'S MEN, I'D...
WAITAMINNIT! MY HYPER-HEARING IS PICKING UP AN ALMOST INFINITESTIMAL HUM--COMING FROM THE TRIBUNE'S BELT!
NOW, WHY WOULD... OF COURSE! IT HAS TO BE!
THERE IS NO NEED TO CONTINUE THIS FARCE! THE EVIDENCE IS CLEAR--
--YOU THREE ARE GUILTY --OF CRIMES AGAINST YOUR COUNTRY AND YOUR FELLOW MAN! I HEREBY SENTENCE YOU TO...
YOU WOULDN'T WANT TO GO AND SPOIL A PERFECTLY GOOD DAY BY KILLING THREE INNOCENT KIDS, NOW, WOULDJA?
DAREDEVIL-- NO!!
NO-- NOT MY BELT! YOU CAN'T...
WHY NOT, BUBBI? AFRAID YOUR PANTS WILL FALL DOWN?
17

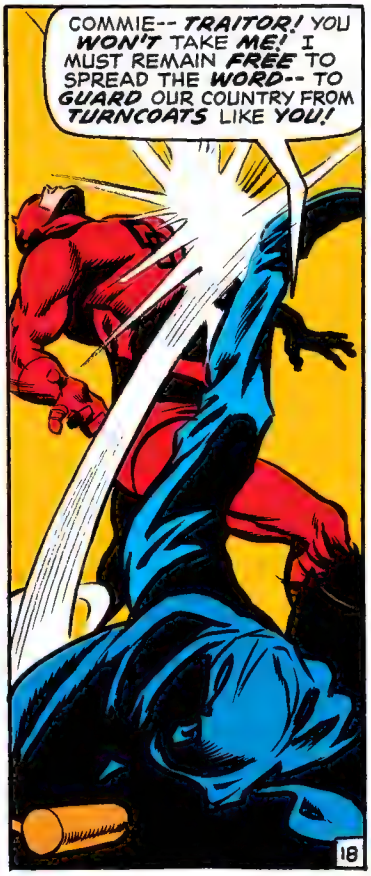

NOW LET'S SEE IF I'M RIGHT-- LET'S SEE JUST HOW DEVOTED YOUR FOLLOWERS ARE!

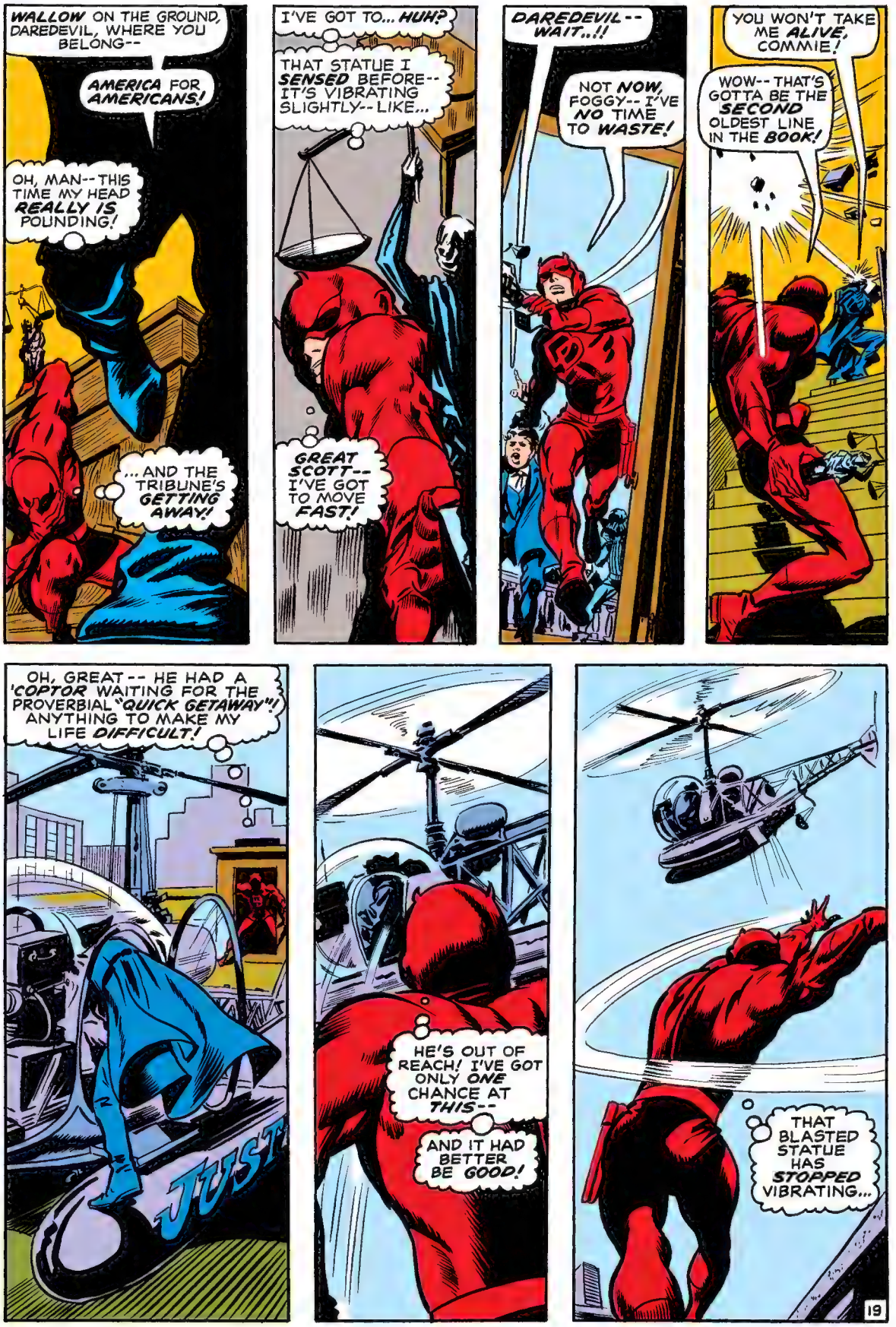

YOU FOOL-- YOU'VE DESTROYED IT -- DESTROYED THE DOMINATOR...
YOU'VE RUINED EVERYTHING!

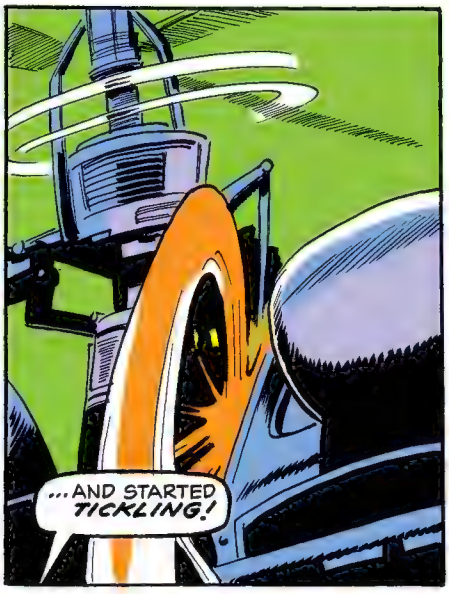
IT WAS THE ULTIMATE IRONY-- THE LIVING DEATH-- FORCING THOSE WHO HAD SOUGHT TO DESTROY AMERICA TO WORK FOR IT INSTEAD! BUT WITH THE BELT GONE, THE SPELL IS BROKEN!
WHA-- WHERE AM I?
WHAT'S HAPPENED?

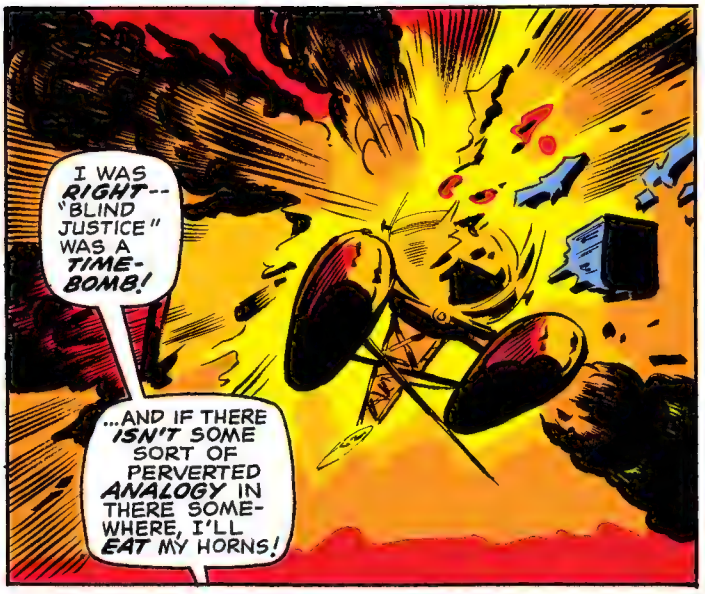
IT LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE ALL ALONE NOW, TRIBUNE-- YOUR LITTLE WIND-UP ARMY IS CUTTING OUT!

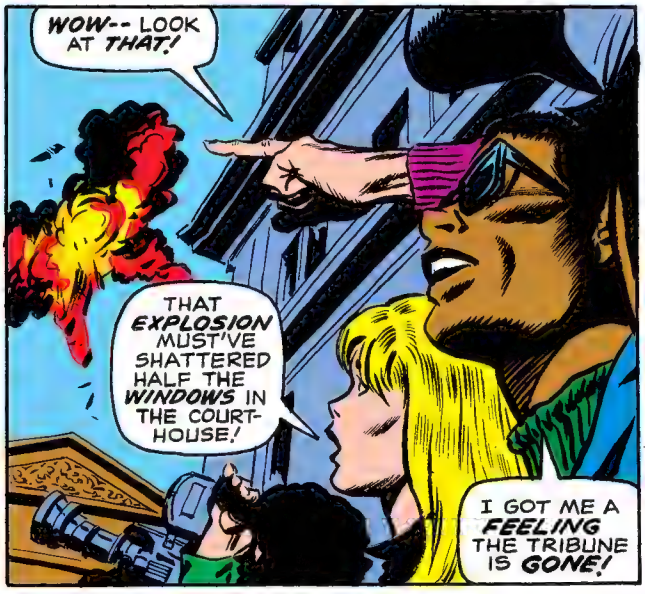

TOO BAD I CAN'T SAY THE SAME FOR YOU!
YOU'RE GOING TO GET A CHANCE TO SEE A REAL COURT IN ACTION-- ASSUMING YOUR BRUISES HEAL IN TIME FOR YOUR TRIAL!

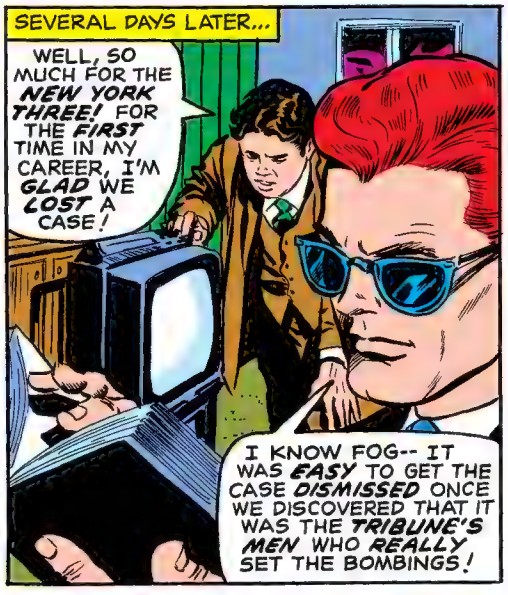

COMMIE-- TRAITOR! YOU WON'T TAKE ME! I MUST REMAIN FREE TO SPREAD THE WORD-- TO GUARD OUR COUNTRY FROM TURNCOATS LIKE YOU!

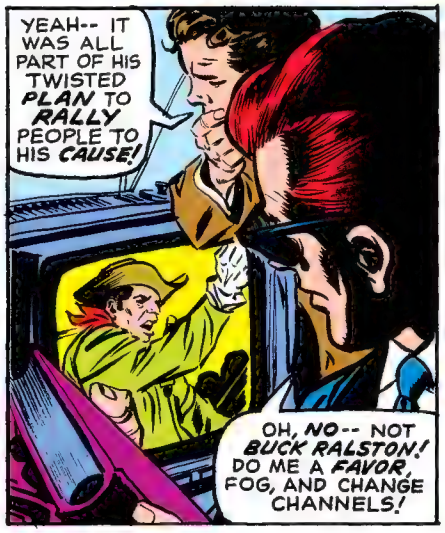

WALLOW ON THE GROUND, DAREDEVIL, WHERE YOU BELONG--
AMERICA FOR AMERICANS!
OH, MAN--THIS TIME MY HEAD REALLY IS POUNDING!
...AND THE TRIBUNE'S GETTING AWAY!
I'VE GOT TO... HUH?
THAT STATUE I SENSED BEFORE-- IT'S VIBRATING SLIGHTLY--LIKE...
GREAT SCOTT-- I'VE GOT TO MOVE FAST!
DAREDEVIL-- WAIT..!!
NOT NOW, FOGGY-- I'VE NO TIME TO WASTE!
YOU WON'T TAKE ME ALIVE, COMMIE!
WOW-- THAT'S GOTTA BE THE SECOND OLDEST LINE IN THE BOOK!
OH, GREAT-- HE HAD A 'COPTOR WAITING FOR THE PROVERBIAL "QUICK GETAWAY"! ANYTHING TO MAKE MY LIFE DIFFICULT!
JUST
HE'S OUT OF REACH! I'VE GOT ONLY ONE CHANCE AT THIS--
AND IT HAD BETTER BE GOOD!
THAT BLASTED STATUE HAS STOPPED VIBRATING...
19


...AND STARTED TICKLING!


I WAS RIGHT-- "BLIND JUSTICE" WAS A TIME-BOMB!
...AND IF THERE ISN'T SOME SORT OF PERVERTED ANALOGY IN THERE SOMEWHERE, I'LL EAT MY HORNS!


WOW-- LOOK AT THAT!
THAT EXPLOSION MUST'VE SHATTERED HALF THE WINDOWS IN THE COURTHOUSE!
I GOT ME A FEELING THE TRIBUNE IS GONE!


SEVERAL DAYS LATER...
WELL, SO MUCH FOR THE NEW YORK THREE! FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MY CAREER, I'M GLAD WE LOST A CASE!
I KNOW FOG-- IT WAS EASY TO GET THE CASE DISMISSED ONCE WE DISCOVERED THAT IT WAS THE TRIBUNE'S MEN WHO REALLY SET THE BOMBINGS!


YEAH-- IT WAS ALL PART OF HIS TWISTED PLAN TO RALLY PEOPLE TO HIS CAUSE!
OH, NO-- NOT BUCK RALSTON! DO ME A FAVOR, FOG, AND CHANGE CHANNELS!

I'VE HAD JUST ABOUT ALL THE RABBLE-ROUSING I CAN STAND FOR A WHILE!
...AND THAT'S WHY AH'M TALKIN' TA YOU-- MAH FELLOW AMERICANS-- THERE'S A PLAGUE ON THE LAND...
20
NEXT: THE LEOPARD MAN!

DARE-DEVIL
15¢
72
JAN
DAREDEVIL
THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR!
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
MARVEL COMICS GROUP
LOOK OUT, BLIND MAN! HERE COMES TAGAK, THE LEOPARD LORD!
AND LOOK WHERE HE'S COMING FROM!!!

DAREDEVIL, THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR!™

LO! THE LORD OF THE LEOPARDS!
INTRODUCING: THE MYSTERIOUS MAN CALLED TAGAK!
STAN LEE EDITOR
GERRY CONWAY WRITER
GENE COLAN ARTIST
SYD SHORES INKER
ARTIE SIMEK LETTERER
SO MUCH FOR PLEASANTRIES! NOW, LET'S GO--!!

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MIDNIGHT...THE STEADY HEARTBEAT OF SILENCE PULSES UNBROKEN...THE SHADOWS SEEP THICKLY 'ROUND DARKENED CORNERS...

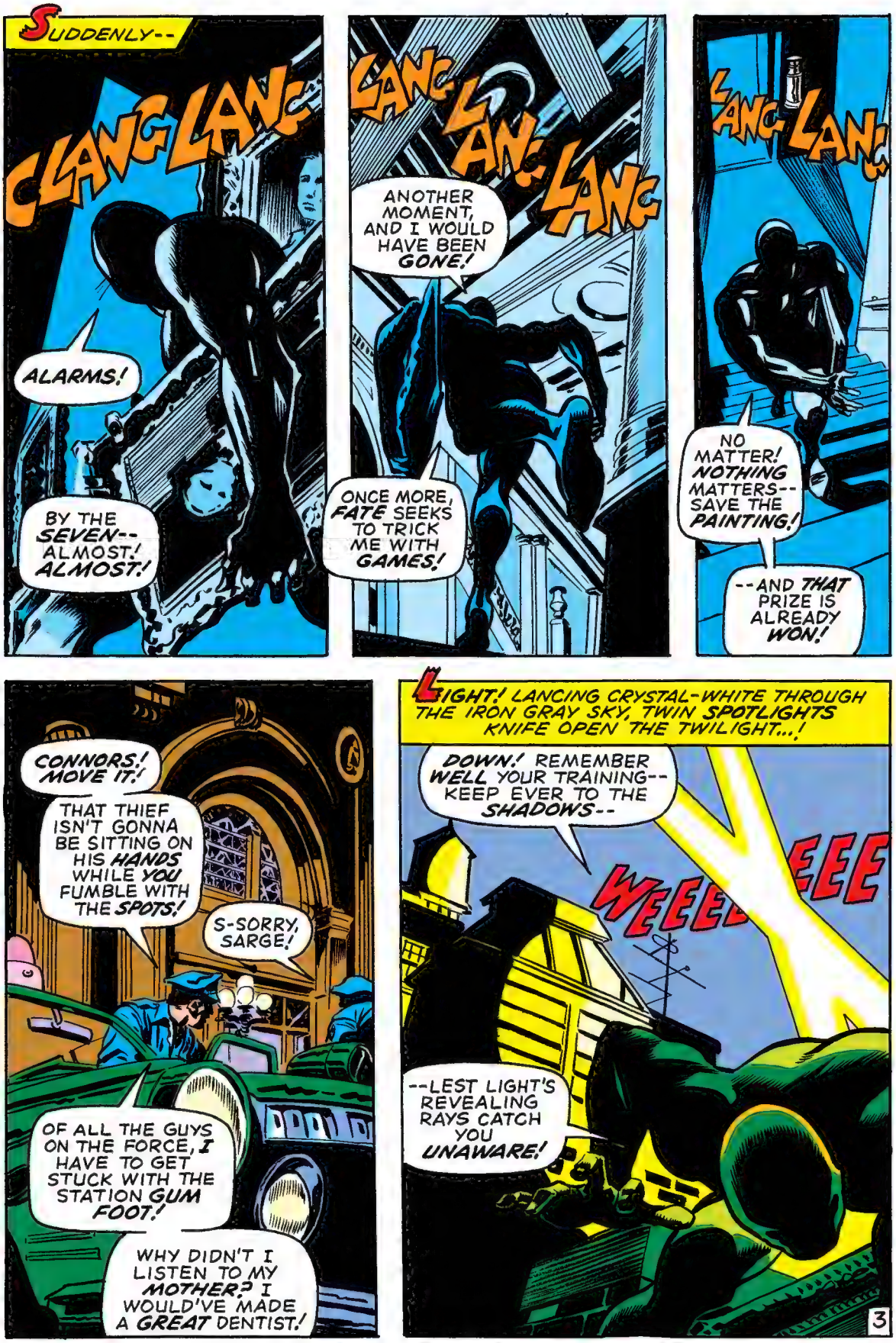
...AND IN THAT DARKNESS--MOVEMENT!

LITHE...SOUNDLESS, HE DARTS FORWARD LIKE A SILKEN CAT, WHISPERING 'CROSS MARBLE FLOORS, A SHIFTING SPOT OF BLACK AGAINST THE WANING GLOW OF PALE MOONLIGHT...!

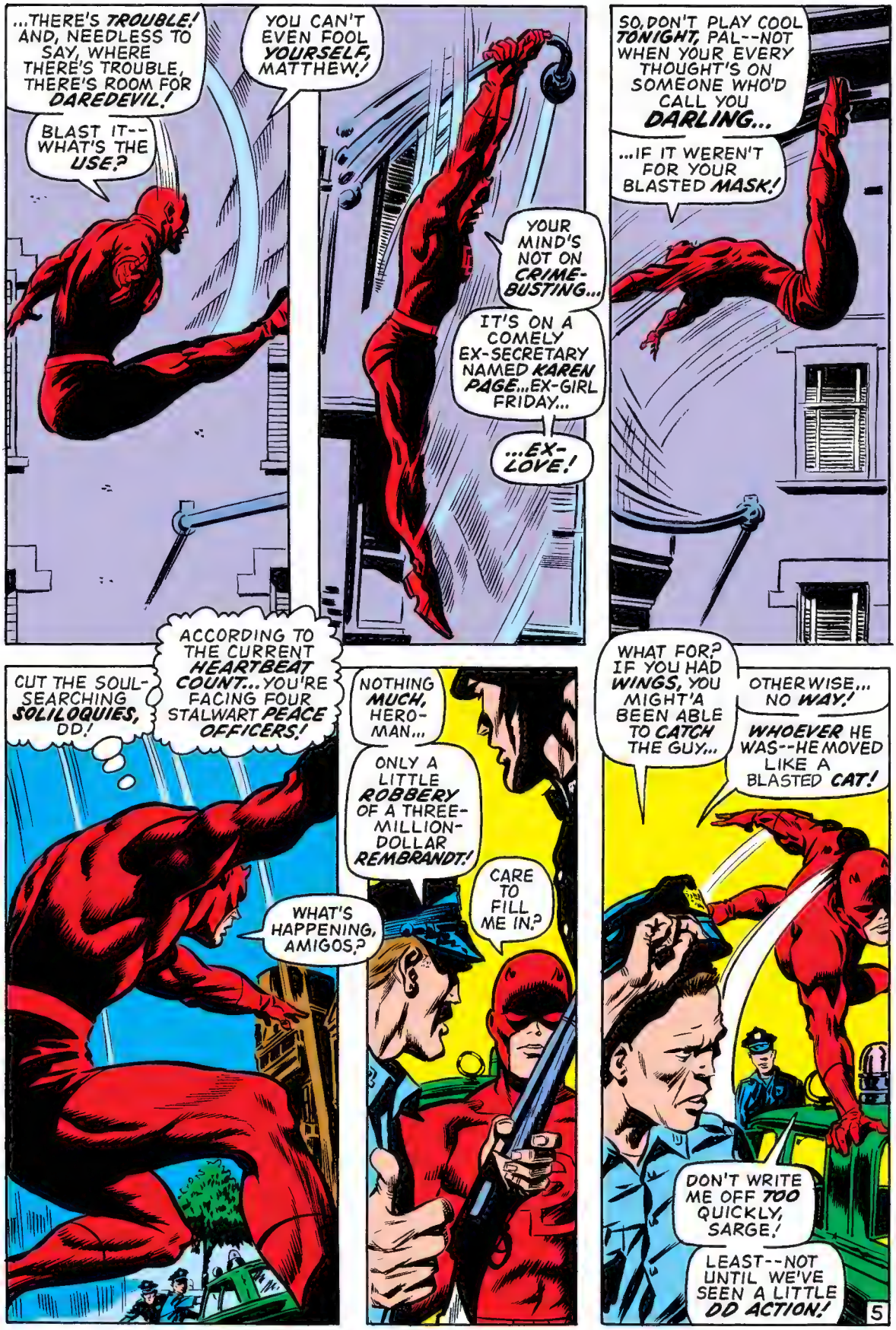
QUIETLY, SOFTLY--A BREATH OF MIDNIGHT AIR, HE RUNS...

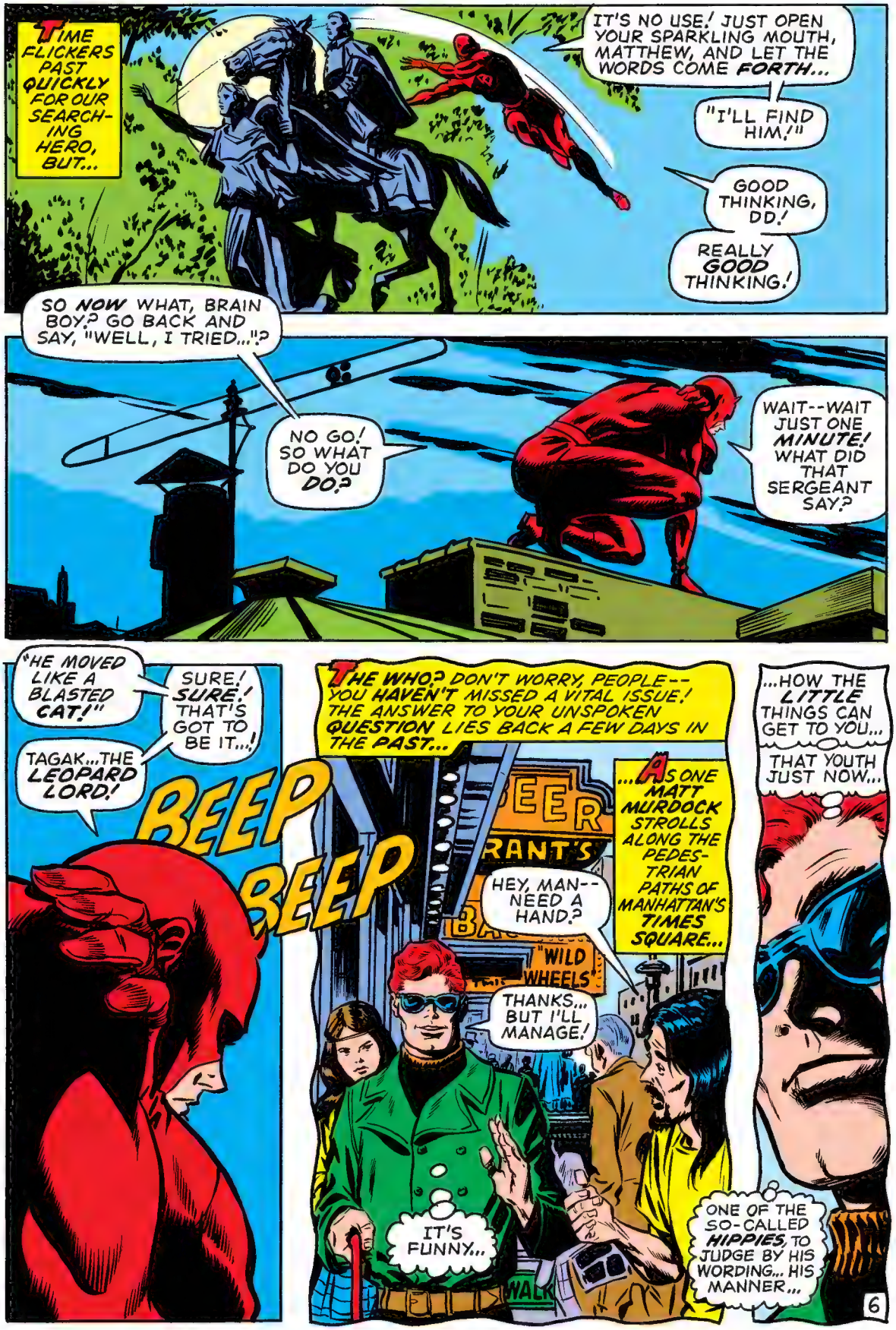
UNTIL, PENULTIMATELY, THE SHADOW PAUSES... THE NIGHT WIND DIES IN THE HALLS...

...AND THE THIEF STEALS!

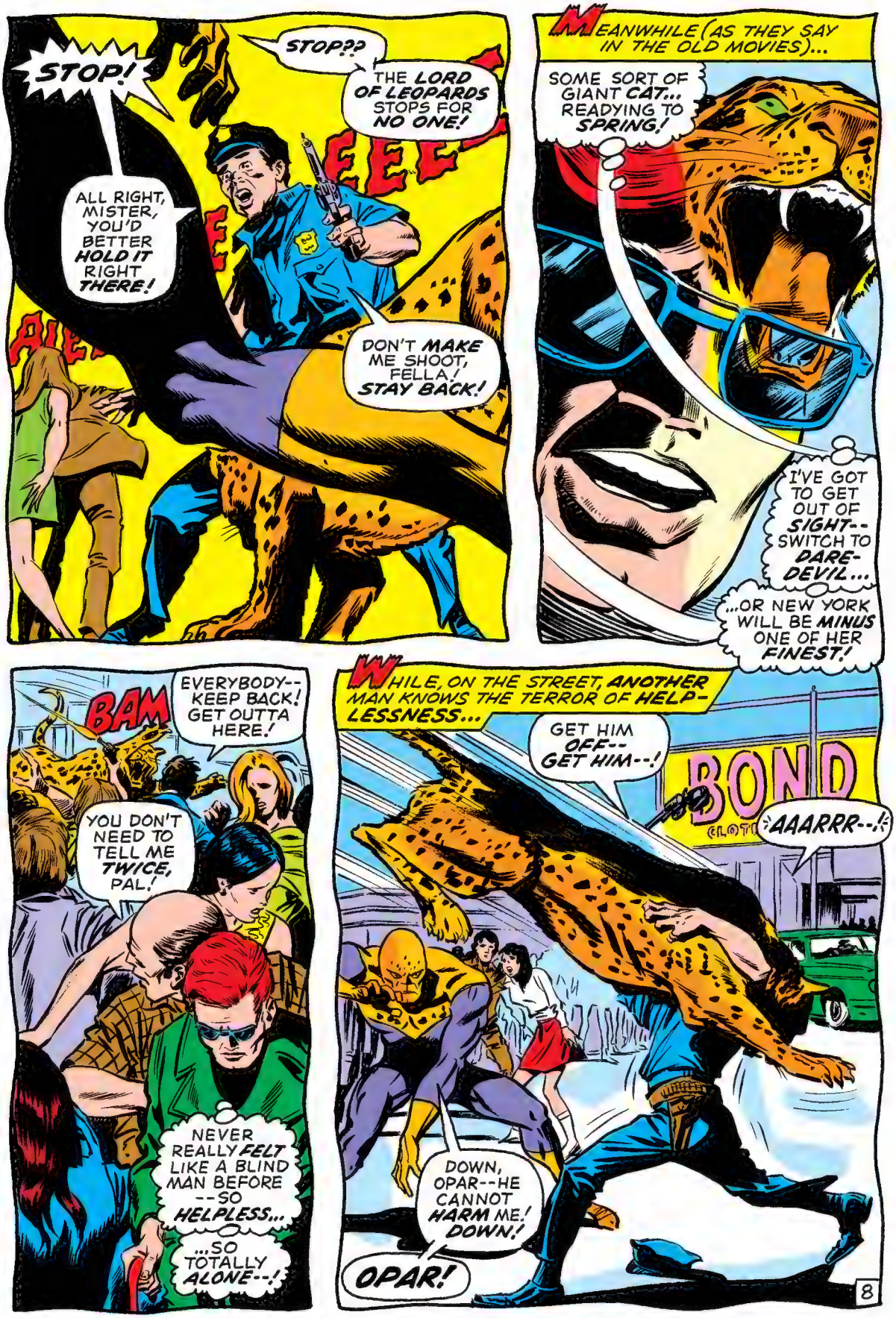

SUDDENLY--
CLANG LANG
ALARMS!
BY THE SEVEN-- ALMOST! ALMOST!
CLANG LANG LANG
ANOTHER MOMENT, AND I WOULD HAVE BEEN GONE!
ONCE MORE, FATE SEEKS TO TRICK ME WITH GAMES!
LANG LANG
NO MATTER! NOTHING MATTERS-- SAVE THE PAINTING!
--AND THAT PRIZE IS ALREADY WON!
CONNORS! MOVE IT!
THAT THIEF ISN'T GONNA BE SITTING ON HIS HANDS WHILE YOU FUMBLE WITH THE SPOTS!
S-SORRY, SARGE!
OF ALL THE GUYS ON THE FORCE, I HAVE TO GET STUCK WITH THE STATION GUM FOOT!
WHY DIDN'T I LISTEN TO MY MOTHER? I WOULD'VE MADE A GREAT DENTIST!
LIGHT! LANCING CRYSTAL-WHITE THROUGH THE IRON GRAY SKY, TWIN SPOTLIGHTS KNIFE OPEN THE TWILIGHT...!
DOWN! REMEMBER WELL YOUR TRAINING-- KEEP EVER TO THE SHADOWS--
WEEE
EEE
--LEST LIGHT'S REVEALING RAYS CATCH YOU UNAWARE!
3

SARGE! UP THERE--ON THE ROOF--!
KRAK!
THAT'S HIM! WILLIS--FIRE A WARNING SHOT!
FORGET IT, SARGE--JUST LOOK AT THE WAY THAT GUY MOVES!
THE FOOLS!
THEY ONLY EXPOSE THEIR OWN WEAKNESS!
I HAVE BUT TO OUTDISTANCE THEIR WEAPONS' RANGE--
--AND I AM FREE!
WHILE, SCANT ROOFTOPS AWAY, YET ANOTHER COSTUMED FIGURE JOINS OUR RAPIDLY-GROWING CAST...!
GUNSHOTS!
SO MUCH FOR THE FORTY WINKS ROUTE...
FACE IT, MATTHEW, LAD--WHEN YOU GOTTA GO, YOU GOTTA GO--
--AND RIGHT NOW, YOU GOTTA MAKE LIKE THE MARATHON FOR THE METROPOLITAN MUSEUM!
'CAUSE UNLESS POLICE SPECIALS HAVE BECOME STANDARD EQUIPMENT FOR THE ASPIRING YOUNG ARTIST...


...THERE'S TROUBLE! AND, NEEDLESS TO SAY, WHERE THERE'S TROUBLE, THERE'S ROOM FOR DAREDEVIL!
BLAST IT--WHAT'S THE USE?
YOU CAN'T EVEN FOOL YOURSELF, MATTHEW!
YOUR MIND'S NOT ON CRIME-BUSTING...
IT'S ON A COMELY EX-SECRETARY NAMED KAREN PAGE...EX-GIRL FRIDAY...
...EX-LOVE!
SO, DON'T PLAY COOL TONIGHT, PAL--NOT WHEN YOUR EVERY THOUGHT'S ON SOMEONE WHO'D CALL YOU DARLING...
...IF IT WEREN'T FOR YOUR BLASTED MASK!
CUT THE SOUL-SEARCHING SOLILOQUIES, DD!
ACCORDING TO THE CURRENT HEARTBEAT COUNT... YOU'RE FACING FOUR STALWART PEACE OFFICERS!
WHAT'S HAPPENING, AMIGOS?
NOTHING MUCH, HERO-MAN...
ONLY A LITTLE ROBBERY OF A THREE-MILLION-DOLLAR REMBRANDT!
CARE TO FILL ME IN?
WHAT FOR? IF YOU HAD WINGS, YOU MIGHT'A BEEN ABLE TO CATCH THE GUY...
OTHERWISE... NO WAY!
WHOEVER HE WAS--HE MOVED LIKE A BLASTED CAT!
DON'T WRITE ME OFF TOO QUICKLY, SARGE!
LEAST--NOT UNTIL WE'VE SEEN A LITTLE DD ACTION!
5

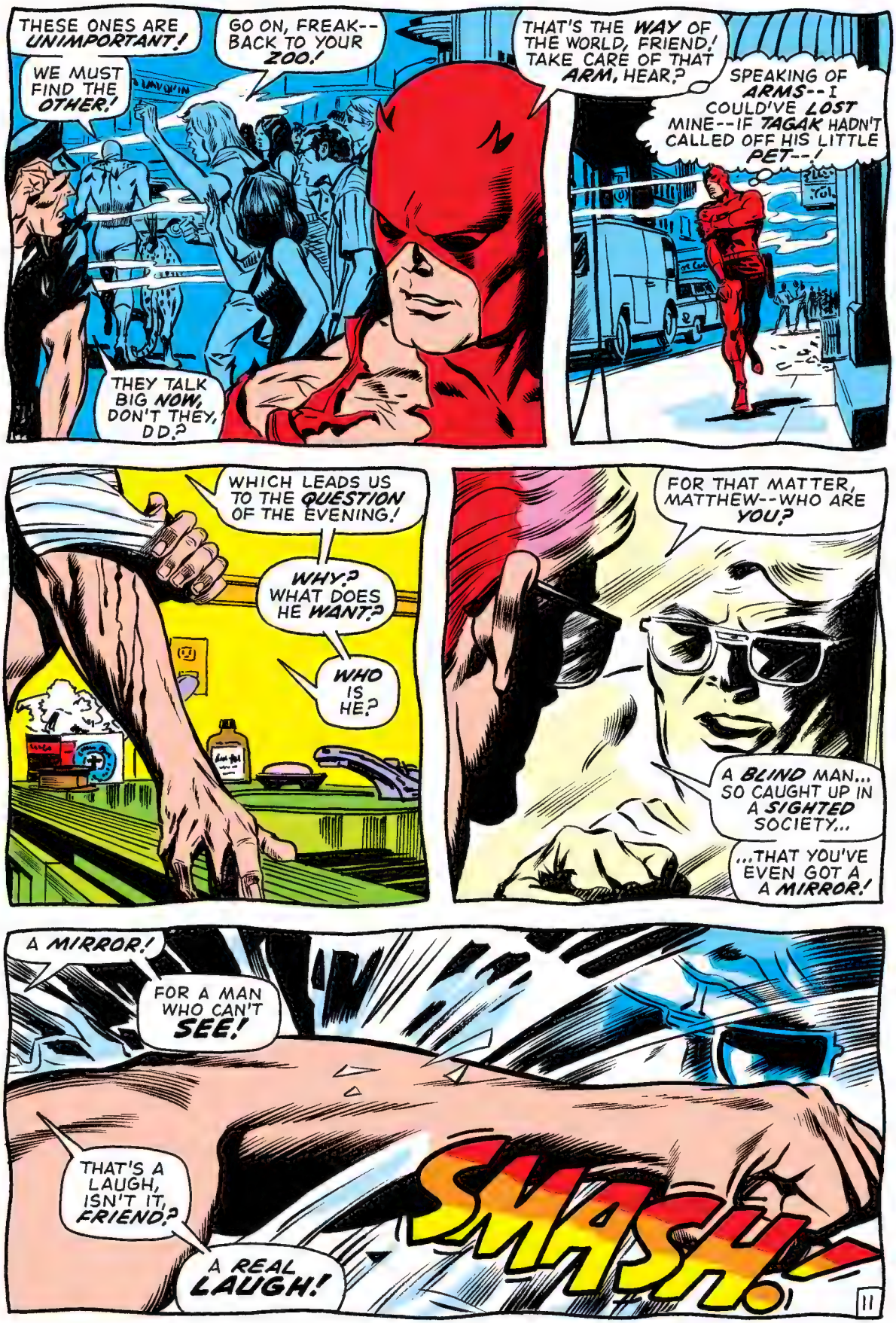

TIME FLICKERS PAST QUICKLY FOR OUR SEARCHING HERO, BUT...
IT'S NO USE! JUST OPEN YOUR SPARKLING MOUTH, MATTHEW, AND LET THE WORDS COME FORTH...
"I'LL FIND HIM!"
GOOD THINKING, DD!
REALLY GOOD THINKING!
SO NOW WHAT, BRAIN BOY? GO BACK AND SAY, "WELL, I TRIED..."?
NO GO! SO WHAT DO YOU DO?
WAIT--WAIT JUST ONE MINUTE! WHAT DID THAT SERGEANT SAY?
"HE MOVED LIKE A BLASTED CAT!"
SURE! SURE! THAT'S GOT TO BE IT...!
TAGAK...THE LEOPARD LORD!
BEEP BEEP
THE WHO? DON'T WORRY, PEOPLE--YOU HAVEN'T MISSED A VITAL ISSUE! THE ANSWER TO YOUR UNSPOKEN QUESTION LIES BACK A FEW DAYS IN THE PAST...
...AS ONE MATT MURDOCK STROLLS ALONG THE PEDESTRIAN PATHS OF MANHATTAN'S TIMES SQUARE...
HEY, MAN--NEED A HAND?
"WILD WHEELS"
THANKS... BUT I'LL MANAGE!
IT'S FUNNY...
ONE OF THE SO-CALLED HIPPIES, TO JUDGE BY HIS WORDING... HIS MANNER...
...HOW THE LITTLE THINGS CAN GET TO YOU...
THAT YOUTH JUST NOW...
6

...SOME PEOPLE WOULD HAVE CALLED HIM A BUM--A WORTHLESS FREE LOADER...
AND YET--THAT BUM OFFERED HELP TO A BLIND MAN...!
SO MUCH FOR YOUR SNAP JUDGMENTS!
TOO OFTEN, PEOPLE ARE BLINDED BY APPEARANCES, BY PRECONCEPTIONS!
SOMETIMES, WE NEVER--
WHAT--?
A SCREAM!
GORDON
VERY PERCEPTIVE, MR. MURDOCK! NOW IF YOU COULD ONLY SEE THE CAUSE OF SAID SCREAM...!
CAUTION, OPAR--THERE IS MUCH HERE WE DO NOT YET UNDERSTAND!
HARRY--HARRY--WHAT IS IT?
IT SURE AINT CREDENCE CLEARWATER, IRENE! MOVE IT!

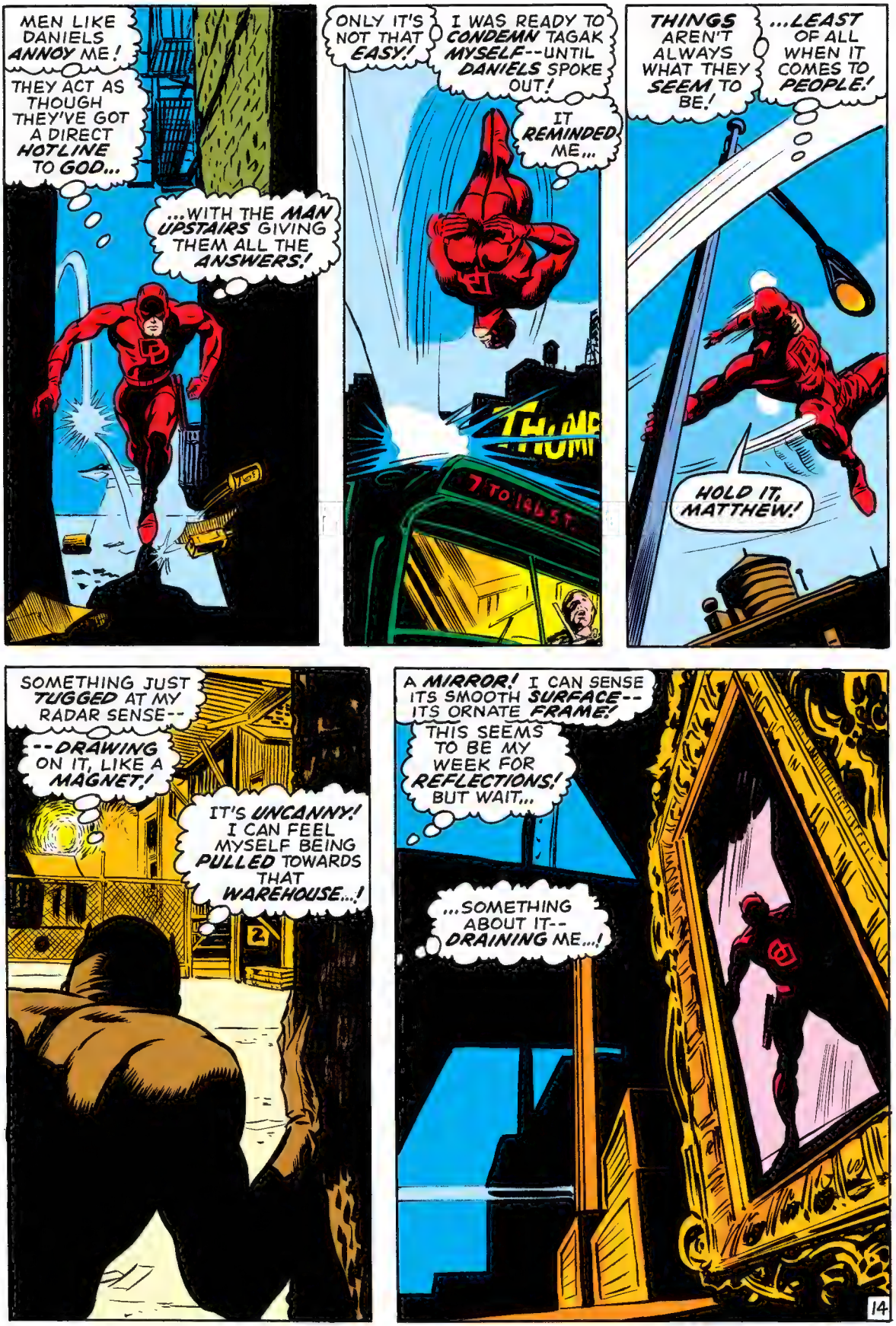

STOP!
STOP??
THE LORD OF LEOPARDS STOPS FOR NO ONE!
ALL RIGHT, MISTER, YOU'D BETTER HOLD IT RIGHT THERE!
DON'T MAKE ME SHOOT, FELLA! STAY BACK!
MEANWHILE (AS THEY SAY IN THE OLD MOVIES)...
SOME SORT OF GIANT CAT... READYING TO SPRING!
I'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF SIGHT-- SWITCH TO DARE-DEVIL...
...OR NEW YORK WILL BE MINUS ONE OF HER FINEST!
BAM
EVERYBODY-- KEEP BACK! GET OUTTA HERE!
YOU DON'T NEED TO TELL ME TWICE, PAL!
NEVER REALLY FELT LIKE A BLIND MAN BEFORE --SO HELPLESS...
...SO TOTALLY ALONE--!
WHILE, ON THE STREET, ANOTHER MAN KNOWS THE TERROR OF HELP-LESSNESS...
GET HIM OFF-- GET HIM--!
AAARRR--!
DOWN, OPAR--HE CANNOT HARM ME! DOWN!
OPAR!
8

--GOT IT! NOW I'VE REALLY GOT TO MOVE...
...IF I'M NOT ALREADY TOO LATE!
CROWD BELOW--I CAN PRACTICALLY SMELL THEIR PANIC! WHY DIDN'T ONE OF THEM HELP THAT POLICEMAN??
DON'T ASK, DD--YOU ALREADY KNOW THE ANSWER...
IT'S DAREDEVIL!
GO TO IT, DD!
BAR
...IT'S YOUR NON-INVOLVEMENT SOCIETY--NOBODY WANTS TO PLAY THE SAMARITAN!
ALTHOUGH--I GUESS I WOULD THINK TWICE ABOUT TACKLING AN ATTACKING LEOPARD...
...IF I COULD SEE!
NOW, NOW, KITTY--MUSTN'T PLAY WITH WHAT ISN'T YOURS!
WHAM
WATCH IT, MATTHEW! DON'T GET TOO COCKY!
THAT'S FIVE HUNDRED POUNDS OF LEOPARD...
...NOT A TEDDY BEAR!
HANG TIGHT, DD--HERE COMES THE OL' MOMENT OF TRUTH!
OPAR--
9

MUSCLES LIKE IRON BANDS TENSE--RELEASE--AND THE LEOPARD SPRINGS!
NOW YOU'VE DONE IT, MR. MURDOCK--
--WELCOME TO "THIS IS YOUR LIFE!"
YOU'VE HAD IT!
OPAR--STOP! TAGAK COMMANDS IT!
NOW!
AT EASE, MY FRIEND! THERE MUST BE NO MORE KILLING!
HE IS NOT THE ONE WE SEEK!
COME! ONCE MORE, WE MUST TAKE UP THE HUNT!
DOCILE--JUST LIKE THAT--LIKE A LAMB!
WHAT SORT OF INSANE SCENE IS THIS?
MREEOOW!
10


THESE ONES ARE UNIMPORTANT!
WE MUST FIND THE OTHER!
GO ON, FREAK--BACK TO YOUR ZOO!
THEY TALK BIG NOW, DON'T THEY, DD?
THAT'S THE WAY OF THE WORLD, FRIEND! TAKE CARE OF THAT ARM, HEAR?
SPEAKING OF ARMS--I COULD'VE LOST MINE--IF TAGAK HADN'T CALLED OFF HIS LITTLE PET--!
WHICH LEADS US TO THE QUESTION OF THE EVENING!
WHY? WHAT DOES HE WANT?
WHO IS HE?
FOR THAT MATTER, MATTHEW--WHO ARE YOU?
A BLIND MAN... SO CAUGHT UP IN A SIGHTED SOCIETY...
...THAT YOU'VE EVEN GOT A A MIRROR!
A MIRROR!
FOR A MAN WHO CAN'T SEE!
THAT'S A LAUGH, ISN'T IT, FRIEND?
A REAL LAUGH!
SMASH!
11

I UNDERSTAND NOW THAT IT WAS MY FRUSTRATION IN NOT BEING ABLE TO HANDLE TAGAK...
...THAT MADE ME ALMOST SMASH MY FIST ON THAT MIRROR!
SURE! I UNDERSTAND THAT NOW...
...WHICH DOES MY HAND A WHOLE WORLD OF GOOD!
BUT, PLAYING THE WEEPING WILLOW ISN'T GOING TO CATCH ME A THIEF!
IF IT WAS TAGAK, HE'S LONG GONE...
...AND MY BEST BET IS TO FIND OUT JUST WHAT HAPPENED AT THE MUSEUM!
12
FOUR TIMES! NOT ONCE-- NOT TWICE... BUT FOUR TIMES!
I'M TIRED OF HAVING THIS MUSEUM TREATED LIKE A LOANING LIBRARY...
WE KNOW WHO'S RESPONSIBLE... AND YET THE POLICE REFUSE TO ACT!
"NO EVIDENCE!"
NO EVIDENCE? WHAT MORE DO THEY NEED? IT'S GOT TO BE THAT LEOPARD-LORD CHARACTER I'VE HEARD RUMORS ABOUT!
GLAD TO HEAR YOU'RE SO SURE, DANIELS!
GUYS LIKE ME WOULD'VE MADE THE MISTAKE OF BEING CERTAIN BEFORE ACCUSING SOMEONE!
GUESS THE WORLD'S LUCKY TO HAVE A NORMAN DANIELS AROUND TO SORT THINGS OUT!
'NIGHT, DANIELS! YOU'VE BEEN A GREAT HELP!
13


MEN LIKE DANIELS ANNOY ME!
THEY ACT AS THOUGH THEY'VE GOT A DIRECT HOTLINE TO GOD...
...WITH THE MAN UPSTAIRS GIVING THEM ALL THE ANSWERS!
ONLY IT'S NOT THAT EASY!
I WAS READY TO CONDEMN TAGAK MYSELF--UNTIL DANIELS SPOKE OUT!
IT REMINDED ME...
THUMP
7 TO 145 ST.
THINGS AREN'T ALWAYS WHAT THEY SEEM TO BE!
...LEAST OF ALL WHEN IT COMES TO PEOPLE!
HOLD IT, MATTHEW!
SOMETHING JUST TUGGED AT MY RADAR SENSE--
--DRAWING ON IT, LIKE A MAGNET!
IT'S UNCANNY! I CAN FEEL MYSELF BEING PULLED TOWARDS THAT WAREHOUSE...!
2
A MIRROR! I CAN SENSE ITS SMOOTH SURFACE-- ITS ORNATE FRAME!
THIS SEEMS TO BE MY WEEK FOR REFLECTIONS! BUT WAIT...
...SOMETHING ABOUT IT-- DRAINING ME...!
14

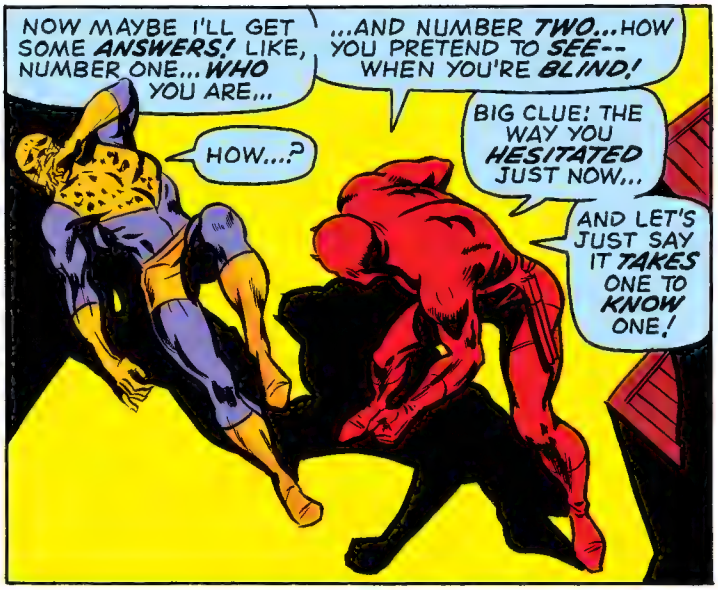
IT'S WARM... PULSING... AS THOUGH IT WERE ALIVE!
AND SOMEHOW-- IT'S DRAWING ON MY RADAR SENSE... SUCKING UP MY ENERGY LIKE A SPONGE!
WHY DON'T YOU FACE IT, DD? YOU'RE JUST TIRED... EXHAUSTED... WHACKED OUT!

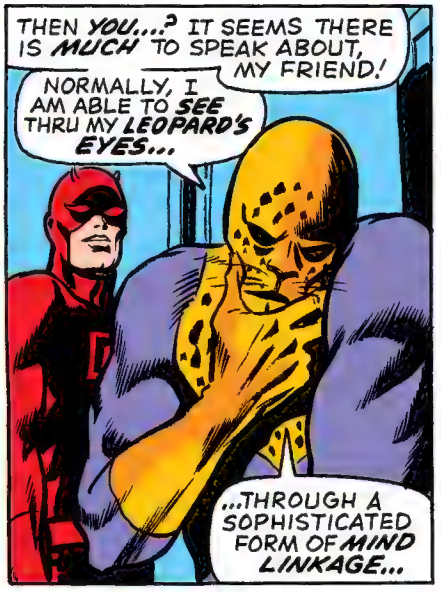
NEXT, YOU'LL BE HEARING THINGS THAT GO BUMP IN THE NIGHT!
BUMP!
I KNEW IT--!

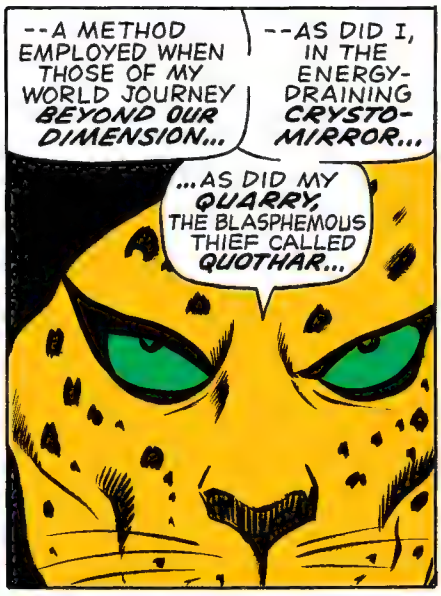
TAGAK!
AGAIN WE MEET, INTRUDER! TOO OFTEN YOU INTERFERE WITH THE BUSINESS OF TAGAK!
NOW--YOU GO TOO FAR!
NOT QUITE FAR ENOUGH, PAL--!

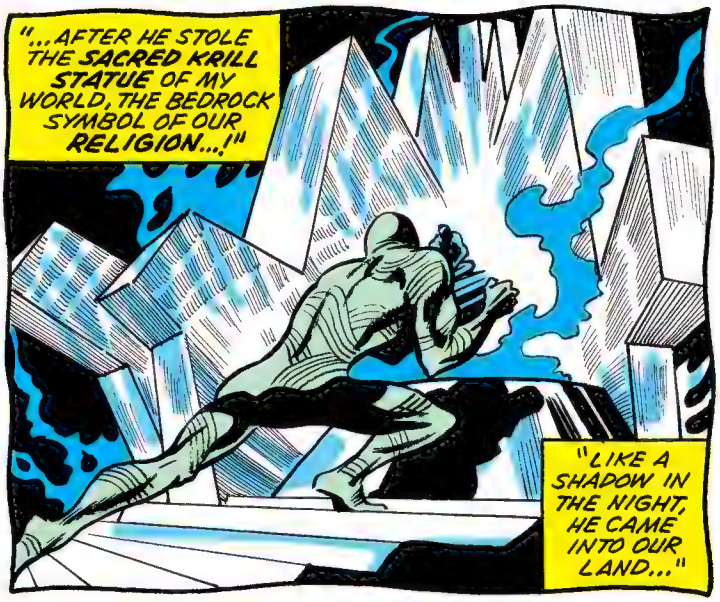
YOU AND I STILL HAVE A LITTLE MATTER OF A FEW STOLEN PAINTINGS TO--
WHAT--?!
KKWHOOOSH!

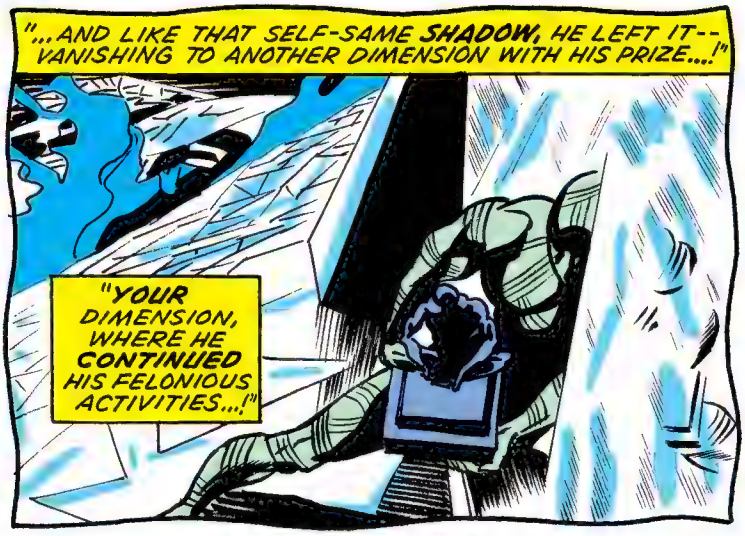
GONE-- RIGHT INTO THE MIRROR!
LIKE YOU SAID, DD-- YOU NEED A REST!
YOU SHALL FIND YOUR REST, MY FRIEND--
--AT THE HANDS OF THE LORD OF LEOPARDS!
BEHIND ME--?
TAGAK IS EVERYWHERE! NOW--
NOW WE PLAY THIS GAME MY WAY, FELLA!
HOW--?
NOW WE'RE GONNA GET ROUGH!
CALL IT TRAINING, CAT-MAN! CALL IT A SLIPPERY GRIP!
I'M THROUGH TAKING THE KNOCKS--
--FIRST FROM YOUR CAT...
WOK!
...THEN FROM A CLOWN MUSEUM DIRECTOR!
NOW IT'S SOMEBODY ELSE'S TURN!
FOR A MOMENT, THE LEOPARD-LORD PAUSES--HESITATES--
--AND IN HESITATING-- IS LOST!
TIME'S UP, WHISKERS!
MY GAME!
16


NOW MAYBE I'LL GET SOME ANSWERS! LIKE, NUMBER ONE... WHO YOU ARE...
...AND NUMBER TWO...HOW YOU PRETEND TO SEE-- WHEN YOU'RE BLIND!
HOW...?
BIG CLUE! THE WAY YOU HESITATED JUST NOW...
AND LET'S JUST SAY IT TAKES ONE TO KNOW ONE!

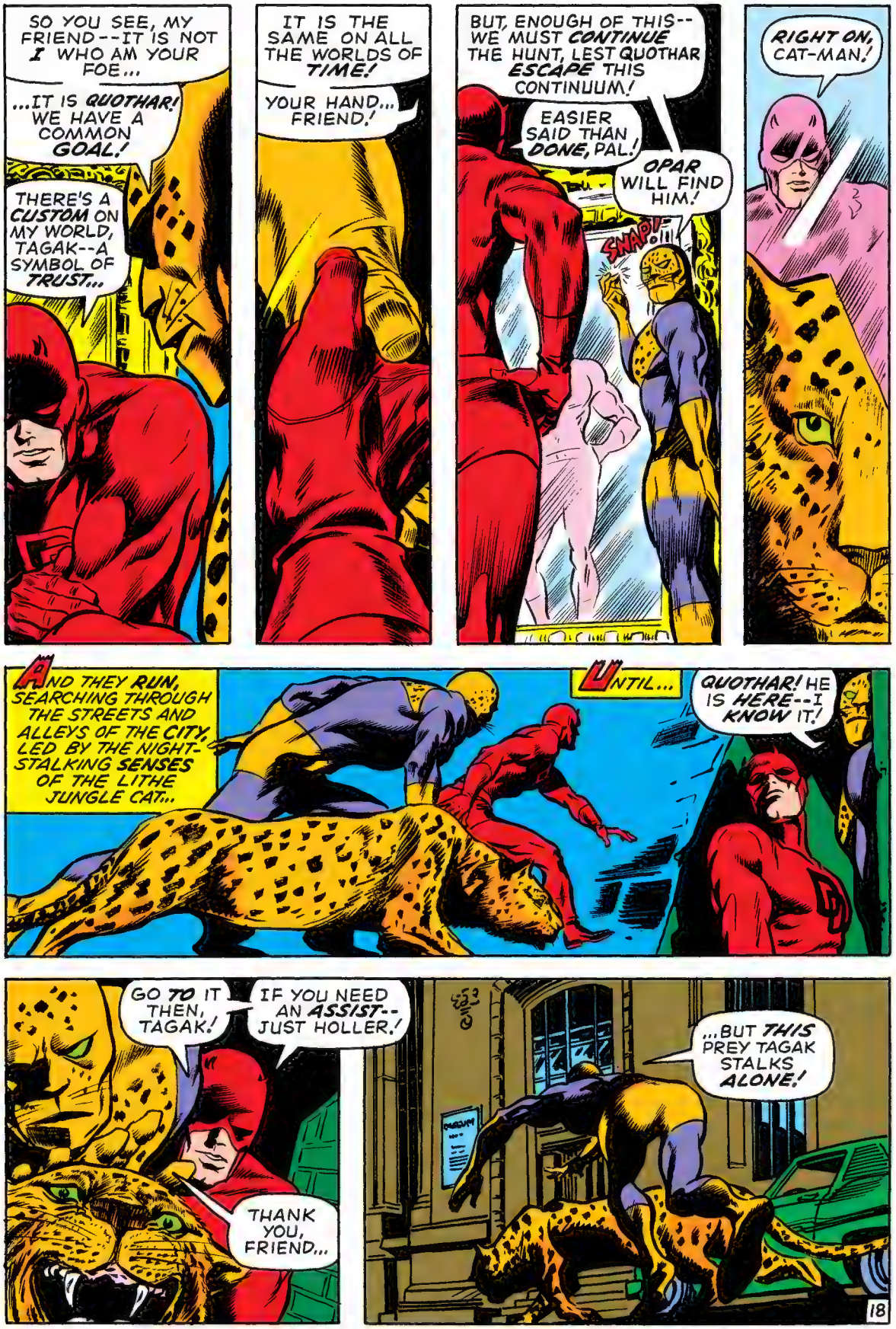

THEN YOU...? IT SEEMS THERE IS MUCH TO SPEAK ABOUT, MY FRIEND!
NORMALLY, I AM ABLE TO SEE THRU MY LEOPARD'S EYES...
...THROUGH A SOPHISTICATED FORM OF MIND LINKAGE...


--A METHOD EMPLOYED WHEN THOSE OF MY WORLD JOURNEY BEYOND OUR DIMENSION...
--AS DID I, IN THE ENERGY-DRAINING CRYSTO-MIRROR...
...AS DID MY QUARRY, THE BLASPHEMOUS THIEF CALLED QUOTHAR...


"...AFTER HE STOLE THE SACRED KRILL STATUE OF MY WORLD, THE BEDROCK SYMBOL OF OUR RELIGION...!"
"LIKE A SHADOW IN THE NIGHT, HE CAME INTO OUR LAND..."


"...AND LIKE THAT SELF-SAME SHADOW, HE LEFT IT-- VANISHING TO ANOTHER DIMENSION WITH HIS PRIZE...!"
"YOUR DIMENSION, WHERE HE CONTINUED HIS FELONIOUS ACTIVITIES...!"

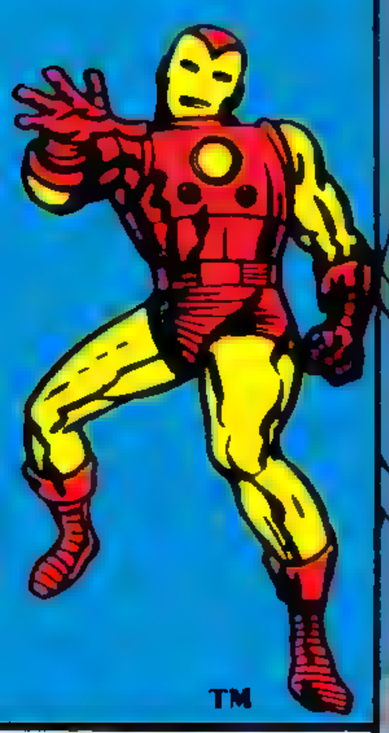
"I WAS SUM-MONED..."
YOU HAVE BEEN CHOSEN FOR THE SACRED HUNT, TAGAK!
MAY THE GODS BLESS YOU AND YOUR BROTHER-IN-SIGHT...
PLEASE THE SEVEN, LET YOUR QUEST BE FRUITFUL!


SO YOU SEE, MY FRIEND--IT IS NOT I WHO AM YOUR FOE...
...IT IS QUOTHAR! WE HAVE A COMMON GOAL!
THERE'S A CUSTOM ON MY WORLD, TAGAK--A SYMBOL OF TRUST...
IT IS THE SAME ON ALL THE WORLDS OF TIME!
YOUR HAND... FRIEND!
BUT, ENOUGH OF THIS-- WE MUST CONTINUE THE HUNT, LEST QUOTHAR ESCAPE THIS CONTINUUM!
EASIER SAID THAN DONE, PAL!
OPAR WILL FIND HIM!
SNAP!
RIGHT ON, CAT-MAN!
AND THEY RUN, SEARCHING THROUGH THE STREETS AND ALLEYS OF THE CITY, LED BY THE NIGHT-STALKING SENSES OF THE LITHE JUNGLE CAT...
UNTIL...
QUOTHAR! HE IS HERE--I KNOW IT!
GO TO IT THEN, TAGAK!
IF YOU NEED AN ASSIST-- JUST HOLLER!
THANK YOU, FRIEND...
...BUT THIS PREY TAGAK STALKS ALONE!
18

SILENCE... THEN, SOFTLY, THE TREAD OF PADDED FOOTSTEPS...!
GENTLY, MY PET! WE MUST BE AS THE SUMMER'S BREEZE...
SUDDENLY, THE BLAZE OF LIGHTS...!
HOLD IT RIGHT THERE, JUNGLE BOY!
THIS TIME, WE CALL THE SHOTS!
AAAGGRROOO!
OPAR-- NO!
KRAK!
IDIOTS!
IT'S TAGAK WE'RE AFTER--!
DAK
AAAAA!
TAGAK!
YOU FOOL!
YOU BLIND, STUPID FOOL!
AARK!
THEN, AS DD TURNS--
THAT'S GOTTA BE-- QUOTHAR!
19

YOU'RE NOT GOING ANYWHERE, BROTHER!
--'CAUSE I'VE GOT A LITTLE PRESENT FOR YOU...
...FROM A GUY NAMED TAGAK!
CHUNK
WHO, AS IT TURNS OUT--
HEY--WHAT'S THAT LINE ABOUT MIRACLES??
IT SEEMS I WAS ONLY GRAZED! BUT, MY EYES... I CAN'T SEE!
LOOKS LIKE YOU'LL BE FULLY BLINDED FOR A BIT, TAGAK...
...WHICH STILL LEAVES YOU A BIT MORE PERCEPTIVE THAN MOST!
RIGHT, DANIELS??
SOON, IN A DESERTED WAREHOUSE, A TALE DRAWS TO A CLOSE...
COME WITH ME, DAREDEVIL! IN THIS WORLD, YOU ARE A MISFIT...
BUT, IN MINE--
NO MORE, TAGAK!
DON'T MAKE ME REGRET MY DECISION! THIS IS MY WORLD! I CAN'T RUN AWAY FROM IT!
YOU ARE A BRAVE MAN, MY FRIEND...!
IN THIS COUNTRY OF THE BLIND...
...YOU ARE A KING!
SURE, DD-- BELIEVE IT! A KING... KEEP DREAMING, LAD!
IT'S GONNA BE A LONG NIGHT'S WORTH OF DREAMS...!
-FINIS-
20

IRON MAN
15¢
35
MAR



MARVEL COMICS GROUP

THE INVINCIBLE IRON MAN

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

DON'T DO IT, FURY!

IF YOU TOUCH THE ZODIAC KEY-- YOU'LL BECOME THE MOST DANGEROUS MENACE ON EARTH!

I--DON'T WANT TO, AVENGER--

BUT-- I CAN'T STOP MYSELF--!

GUEST-STARRING: NICK FURY-- AND THE MAN CALLED DAREDEVIL!

THE INVINCIBLE IRON MAN™

REVENGE™

IF SITWELL DIES--I'LL HUNT YOU, SPYMASTER--

--AND NO MATTER WHO YOU ARE--

--WHERE YOU GO--

--I'LL FIND YOU--AND DESTROY YOU!!

BITTER WITH THE FIRE OF VENGEANCE, IRON MAN'S WORDS OF HATE SEEM TO RING OUT LIKE STEEL GRATING AGAINST STEEL--

--BUT HIS CRY IS USELESS, FOR THE OBJECT OF THAT HATE IS ALREADY GONE...!

489 Z

STAN LEE EDITOR	GERRY CONWAY WRITER	DON HECK ARTIST	MIKE ESPOSITO INKER	ARTIE SIMEK LETTERER

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"WHAT'S THE **USE?** FACE IT, TONY--IF **JASPER** DIES, IT'LL BE **YOUR FAULT**-- YOU, TONY STARK, PLAYBOY **INDUSTRIALIST** WITH FANCY IDEAS ABOUT ACTING LIKE **GOD** IN AN ARMOR **SHELL**...

"YOU WERE **FOOL ENOUGH** TO LET YOURSELF GET **CAPTURED** AS **STARK**--

UH-UNH, **BIG MAN!** YOU'RE NOT GOING **ANYWHERE** JUST YET! **SPYMASTER** WANTS YOU **HERE**--SO YOU **STAY,** DIG?

CAN'T-- BREAK AWAY-- FROM THOSE-- **TRACTOR BEAMS**--!

"--AND EVEN WHEN YOU MANAGED TO SWITCH TO **IRON MAN,** YOU **STILL** BLEW IT!"

"A **BUST,** HERO-MAN... THEY KNOCKED YOU AROUND LIKE A BLASTED **TINKER TOY**...

:UUNNH!:

EXCELLENT, NUMBER FOUR --THIS **GAME** GOES WELL!

"...AND THE ONE TIME YOU PULLED TO THE **TOP** OF THAT GAME...

:AAARRKK: SPYMASTER, THE **D-RAY**--

"...YOUR TRANSISTOR-BOOSTED **STRENGTH** TOO PROVED **LITTLE**...

THUMP!

CAN'T KEEP THIS **UP** POWER **DRAINING OFF... WEAKENING** ME...

"...AND **TOO LATE!**

THAT'S QUITE **ENOUGH,** IRON MAN--IF YOU WISH TO DISCLAIM **RESPONSIBILITY** FOR THIS YOUNG GENTLEMAN'S UNTIMELY **DEATH**--!

SITWELL!

"THAT MOMENT'S WORTH OF **DISTRACTION** WAS ALL **SPYMASTER** NEEDED TO TRY AND REMOVE YOUR ATTENTION **PERMANENTLY...**

ZZZZT!

IRON MAN--LOOK OUT!

NO! YOU'LL HAVE TO FIND ANOTHER **PAWN** TO **STAND HOSTAGE,** FRIENDS--

PFFUT!

"BY THEN YOU HAD RECOVERED, BUT--

ESCAPE OPERATION 12-B... INITIATE **SMOKE SCREEN!**

--S.H.I.E.L.D. AGENTS DON'T **PLAY** THAT GAME!

FOR EACH **DECISION** THERE IS A **PENALTY,** GALLANT ONE--

--A PENALTY YOU'LL HAVE TO **PAY!**

MR. STARK... MR. STARK...

"YOU WERE TOO **WEAK** TO FOLLOW HIM! YOU COULD BARELY **MOVE...** AND IN THE BLACKNESS, HE **ESCAPED...**

THE OTHERS MOVE TOO **SLOWLY**--BUT PERHAPS IT IS JUST AS **WELL!**

THEIR **USEFULNESS** TO ME IS **ENDED!**

THE **ESPIONAGE ELITE** IS **DEAD!**

"FACE THE **FACTS,** TONY...

"...SURE, WE CAUGHT THE OTHER **FIVE**--BUT **SPY-MASTER'S** FREE BECAUSE **YOU** DIDN'T HAVE THE STRENGTH TO GO **AFTER** HIM...

--AND JASPER'S **DYING**...BECAUSE **YOU** COULDN'T **PROTECT** HIM!

YOUR FAULT, TONY STARK!

BUT SINCE YOU CAN'T **FACE** THAT BLAME--VOW **REVENGE**...ON A MAN CALLED **SPYMASTER!**

BUT LET'S LEAVE THE TORMENTED THOUGHTS OF TONY STARK, AND GIVE OUR ATTENTION TO THE ENTRANCE OF A NEW CHARACTER...

DAILY

SHIELD

IN

CO

...TURNING TIME FORWARD A DAY, AND PLACING OURSELVES IN A PLUSH MANHATTAN APARTMENT ON THE MORNING AFTER THE PREVIOUS EVENTS...

"...IDENTIFIED AS JASPER SITWELL, AN AGENT OF S.H.I.E.L.D. ASSIGNED AS BODYGUARD TO TONY STARK, OWNER AND DRIVING FORCE BEHIND STARK INDUSTRIES, A DEFENSE--"

JASPER?

DAILY

FINAL

MET

CRITICAL CONDITION... DYING?

IT--IT SHOULDN'T BOTHER ME... I AM TRAINED NOT TO BE AFFECTED...!

SHIELD AGENT IN CRITICAL CONDITION!

...JASPER?

NO!

WHY COULD I NEVER SEE IT BEFORE?

HAVE I BEEN BLINDED TO MY FEELINGS BECAUSE OF THAT REALITY WHICH I MUST CONSTANTLY HIDE...

...THE REALITY OF MADAME MASQUE?

IS THIS TO BE PART OF MY *CURSE*, TOO?

NOT TO KNOW WHEN I *LOVE* A MAN--

--BECAUSE OF THE *PART* I MUST PLAY?

FOR I SEE *NOW* THAT I'M IN *LOVE* WITH JASPER SITWELL...

...AND THE KNOWLEDGE *FRIGHTENS* ME!

IT PROVES THAT I DO NOT *CONTROL* MY SOUL AS I WOULD *BELIEVE!*

I MUST HAVE TIME TO *THINK*--

--TO SORT OUT MY *FEELINGS*...AND TO TRY TO *UNDERSTAND* THEM!

AND WHILE THE DISFIGURED MADAME MASQUE BEGINS HER SOUL-SEARCHING...

...WE'LL SWITCH TO A MORE IMMEDIATE CONFRONTATION IN THE LOCAL PRECINCT...!

YOU CANNOT *BLUFF* US, IRON MAN...

WE ARE YOUR ONLY *LINK* WITH SPYMASTER--YOU WON'T *HARM* US...AND YOU *CAN'T* MAKE US *TALK!*

DON'T *BET* ON IT, FRIEND! A MAN...A *GOOD* MAN... IS DYING BECAUSE OF SPYMASTER--

BUG *OFF*, TIN MAN! YOU CAN'T *FRIGHTEN* US!

YOU ARE *HELPLESS!*

THAT *CLINCHES* IT! TEN SECONDS, PAL--COUNT THEM, AND THEN YOU EITHER *TALK*--

--OR WE'LL FIND A NEW PLACE FOR THAT *MOUTH* OF YOURS!

STOP IT, IRON MAN!

EASE THAT TEMPER OF YOURS--

LET GO OF MY ARM, MURDOCK--!*

*AND, LEST ANYONE WONDER WHAT MATT (DAREDEVIL) MURDOCK IS DOING AT A POLICE LINE-UP--WELL, HE'S ASSISTANT TO THE D.A., ISN'T HE? --STAN.

AND IF I DON'T...? YOU'RE LOSING CONTROL, IRON MAN--LETTING YOURSELF BE SWEPT ALONG BY ALL THAT HATE!

LOOSEN UP BEFORE YOU DO SOMETHING YOU'LL REGRET!

I...

FORGET IT! JUST FORGET IT!

I'LL FIND HIM ON MY OWN!

WAS THAT WISE, MATT?

I KNOW MY PEOPLE, FOGGY--ONLY MY EYES ARE BLIND!

AND WHAT OF SPYMASTER? ONE MAN IN A CITY OF EIGHT MILLION...IF IRON MAN COULD BUT TWIST THE SHAPE OF TIME AND SPACE AS WE CAN, AND TRAVEL THROUGH THAT CITY TO A CERTAIN STREET SLICKED BY THE FALL OF AFTERNOON RAIN...

athryn's

...HE WOULD FIND HIS QUARRY PEERING THROUGH THE SHATTERED GLASS OF A SOOT-DARKENED WINDOW, STARING AT THE TWILIGHT WITHOUT...!

IT IS ALMOST TIME...!

I'VE ALWAYS PRIDED MYSELF ON PRECISION--AND FOR THIS OF ALL MEETINGS, I MUST BE EXACTLY ON TIME...

MOMENTS LATER, HE STRIDES THROUGH THE BLACKENED TUNNELS OF A DESERTED SUBWAY...

I MUST REMAIN CALM--EVER SURE! IF HE EXPECTS THE SCRAPING MANNER OF A SERVANT...THEN HE IS MISTAKEN!

THE SPYMASTER IS NO ONE'S SERVANT...NOT EVEN HIS!

I MUST BE SURE...BUT I MUST ALSO BE HUMBLE, FOR I HAVE, IN A WAY, FAILED...!

ENTER, YOU INCOMPETENT BUNGLER!

CAPRICORN, I--

SILENCE! YOU HAVE BETRAYED THE TRUST OF THE ZODIAC BY YOUR FAILURE...

...IN ALL OTHER CASES, THIS WOULD DEMAND DEATH--

BUT YOU ARE FORTUNATE, SPYMASTER, FOR NEW ORDERS HAVE BEEN ISSUED...

...ORDERS WHICH NECESSITATE YOUR REINSTATEMENT!

MOST GRACIOUS ONE, I--

ENOUGH! THERE ARE MORE VITAL MATTERS TO ATTEND TO THAN YOUR APOLOGIES!

THERE! HE IS THE OBJECT OF YOUR NEW HUNT...THE MAN THEY CALL DAREDEVIL!

AND IN THIS-- YOU MUST NOT FAIL!

TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THAT WONDERFUL DEVICE, THE **DRAMATIC TRANSITION**, WE'LL MOVE OURSELVES TO THE **DUTY ROOM** OF THAT INDUSTRIOUS ORGANIZATION KNOWN AS S.H.I.E.L.D., WHERE...

I APPRECIATE YOUR COMIN' AROUND TO CHECK UP ON *SITWELL*, IRON MAN-- BUT YOU'VE GOTTA *UNDER-STAND*...

...THERE JUST AINT *NOTHING* YOU CAN *DO!*

LOOK, I KNOW HOW YOUR *BOSS* MUST FEEL...

IT AINT NO *PICNIC* SENDIN' MEN INTO *DANGER*-- KNOWIN THEY MAY GET *KILLED*...

BELIEVE ME, I KNOW...

I HAD MY *SHARE* OF LOST BUDDIES BACK IN THE *BIG ONE*... BUT MY FEELINGS DON'T MEAN A *THING*...

...AND NEITHER DO STARK'S! IT'S GOTTA BE *DONE*--AND THAT'S *IT!*

BUT *FORGET* ALL'A THAT! THERE'S SOME-THIN' *ELSE* I WANT YOUR *HELP* FOR...

THIS! THE *ZODIAC KEY* WE CAPTURED*-OUR BRAIN BOYS JUST CAN'T *FIGURE* IT! MAYBE YOUR BOSS, STARK--

...STARK...

*SEE *AVENGERS* #72! --STAN.

FURY... WHAT--?

LLLT!

FURY-- WHAT'S *WRONG?* FOR HEAVEN'S *SAKE*, MAN--!

I--I-- CAN'T--

LIKE A MAN **POSSESSED**, NICK FURY SWINGS OUT WITH THE LASHING **POWER** OF THE **KEY**, STRIKING AND **SMASHING** UNCONTROLLABLY...

FURY'S GONE BERSERK! SOMEHOW--THAT KEY'S CONTROLLING HIS MIND!

I'VE GOT TO GET IT AWAY FROM HIM!

IRON MAN-- I--

SSSZZT!

I'LL MAGNETIZE IT--COAT IT IN A REPULSOR FIELD...

KKRACKLE!

AFTER THE ACCIDENT THAT CHANGED WHITNEY FROST INTO MADAME MASQUE...

GOT IT-- FOR NOW!

FURY! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

YEAH... YEAH, I GUESS SO...

...BUT IT LOOKS LIKE WE'VE GOT WORRIES, METAL MAN...

BIG WORRIES!

YOU'RE NOT THE ONLY ONE, NICK...!

...I THOUGHT EVERYTHING WAS OVER WITH JASPER --AND NOW I FIND IT IS NOT!

WHY CAN IT NOT BE SIMPLE...EASY? WHY MUST THERE ALWAYS BE PAIN?

BUT THAT'S A QUESTION DESTINED TO REMAIN UNANSWERED, FOR...

DAREDEVIL!

THAT PUTS YOU ONE UP, MISS--

--YOU KNOW ME! CAN'T SAY I CAN RETURN THE COMPLIMENT!

SO IT SHOULD REMAIN, MY FRIEND--I AM NOT ONE YOU'D CARE TO KNOW!

LET ME BE THE-- WAIT!

THAT SOUND--!

A NET!

DON'T MOVE--IF WE STRUGGLE, WE'LL ONLY GET MORE ENTANGLED--!

BUT WHO--?

SISTER, THAT WAS ONE QUESTION I WAS KINDA HOPING YOU'D BE ABLE TO ANSWER...

...CAUSE I'M COMPLETELY ...IN THE DARK!

FOR WHICH PUN YOU SHOULD TAKE FIVE GIANT STEPS BACKWARD, MATTHEW FRIEND...

UNLESS YOU GET A KICK OUT OF BEING BLIND!

ENOUGH BLEEDING SOUL, DD--LISTEN...

FOOL! KEEP THOSE WIRES TAUT!

THANKS FOR THE ASSIST, FRIEND! A LITTLE LOOSER--

--AND I CAN DO THIS!

BE MY GUEST, SWEETIE!

I AM MUCH OBLIGED, DAREDEVIL!

THEY'RE FREE-- AWWK!

VERY PERCEPTIVE, SIR! YOUR DEDUCTIVE POWERS ASTOUND ME!

THESE ARE HARDLY THE MOST EFFICIENT KIDNAPPERS I HAVE YET TO ENCOUNTER, DAREDEVIL--

DAREDEVIL?

THUMP!

REGRETTABLY, I AGREE WITH YOU, MY DEAR--

ONE MUST LEARN SELF-SUFFICIENCY! CORRECT, MY FRIEND?

--BUT I'M AFRAID YOUR COSTUMED FRIEND IS IN NO POSITION TO ANSWER!

NOTHING TO *SAY?* PITY! THAT SEEMS TO LEAVE *YOU, MADAME MASQUE...*

ZZZZT!

UUUNNH--!

THEN ALL IS DARKNESS AND SILENCE...

*...AND WE MOVE OUR **ATTENTION** TO A ROOM IN THE SPRAWLING COMPLEX THAT IS **STARK INDUSTRIES,** WHERE WE FIND KEVIN O'BRIEN AND THE AVENGER KNOWN AS **IRON MAN**...*

HOLY--! COME *HERE,* KEVIN--TELL ME WHAT YOU *SEE...!*

LORD--IT'S LIKE *LOOKIN'* AT THE *STARS!*

ALL LIGHTS AND *COLORS*--

--IT'S... *UNREAL!*

...ALIEN!

EXACTLY, KEVIN! AND THE *OTHER* TESTS SHOW--

--HOLD IT!

STOP *SKULKING* ABOUT, FRIEND, AND *IDENTIFY* YOURSELF--

--UNLESS YOU *WANT* TO BE FLATTENED!

RELAX, TIN MAN...

...IT'S **ME,** FURY! YOU GUYS LOOKED SO BLASTED **BUSY,** I DIDN'T WANNA INTERRUPT YOUR **FUN!**

PLENTY, HERO MAN! WE JUS' PULLED A **RAID** ON THE LAST KNOWN **ZODIAC HQ...** AN' WE CAME UP **ZERO!**

THEY'D WIPED THE PLACE **CLEAN**-- LOCK, STOCK, AN' TEST TUBES!

SOMTHIN'S **UP,** ALL RIGHT...ONLY TROUBLE IS WE DON'T KNOW **WHAT!**

I WAS SORTA **HOPING** YOU'D **BROKEN** THIS **KEY THING...**

WHAT'S **UP,** FURY?

IN A **WAY!** SOMETHING'S **POWERING** IT FROM OUTSIDE OUR NATIVE **CONTINUUM...** IT'S DRAWING **ENERGY** CONSTANTLY...

...AND IT'S ALL I CAN **DO** TO KEEP IT **COATED** WITH THAT **MAGNETIC FIELD!**

GREAT! SO NOW WE'VE GOT **ANOTHER** MYSTERY ON OUR HANDS! THAT'S JUS' **GREAT!**

DON'T LOOK **NOW,** FURY-- BUT PART OF THAT **FIRST** MYSTERY IS PLOWING THE **SKY** OVER STARK INDUSTRIES AT THIS VERY **MOMENT...**

BEARING-- TRIPLE ZERO **TWO...** NORTH BY **NORTHWEST!**

DEAD ON **TARGET,** CAPRICORN!

EXCELLENT, LIBRA! THIS **PLOY** SEEMS TO HAVE WORKED BEYOND OUR MOST LIBERAL **EXPECTATIONS!**

THE **KEY'S** HOMING DEVICE IS LEADING US DIRECTLY TO THE MAIN COMPLEX AT **S.I.!**

AND UNLESS FATE'S **WEB** HAS GONE **ASKEW--**

--I'LL WAGER WE'LL FIND THE **OBJECT** OF OUR **FIRST** HUNT...

IRON MAN!

AND WHAT OF DAREDEVIL AND MADAME MASQUE? GLAD YOU ASKED...

IT'S LIKE A BAD MOVIE...

WHERE THE HERO WAKES UP TO FIND HIMSELF CHAINED TO A WALL IN THE DUNGEON--

--WITH A BEAUTIFUL FEMME ONLY INCHES AWAY!

THIS IS NO TIME TO STATE THE OBVIOUS, MY FRIEND!

YOU MUST TRY TO FREE ONE OF YOUR HANDS--IN MY BELT, THERE IS A SMALL LASER...

I GET THE IDEA! UNFORTUNATELY--IT'S EASIER SAID THAN DONE...

--GOT TO GET MY FEET--PRESSED AGAINST THE WALL--

--STRAIN--

--MY ARMS... ALMOST... BREAKING...

SNAP!

THERE!

WITHIN MOMENTS...

HURRY, DAREDEVIL! I CANNOT EXPLAIN IT--BUT SUDDENLY I SENSE A PRESENSE HERE...

...AN EMBODIMENT OF PURE EVIL!

EASY... DON'T PANIC ON ME NOW, HONEY!

BRIEF SECONDS LATER, THE TWO ACCIDENTAL COMPATRIOTS FIND THEMSELVES RUNNING THROUGH A DARKENED CORRIDOR, COMING SUDDENLY TO A DIMLY-LIT FORK, WHEN--

HALT! YOU MAY GO NO FURTHER! THIS AMUSEMENT HAS ACHIEVED ITS PURPOSE...

WHAT--?

DAREDEVIL--DON'T YOU FEEL IT? LIKE A SLIDING SHADOW--SLIPPING OVER YOUR SKIN... THROUGH YOU? A...A CHILL?

NEVER MIND THE IMAGINATION... WE'RE TRAPPED!

SOME SORT OF FORCEFIELD --HOLDING US IN!

IT'S NOT JUST A FORCEFIELD... IT'S THEM... I KNOW IT!

IT'S... THEM!

"IT'S **THEM!**" AND WHILE THIS CRY **ECHOES** AND RE-ECHOES IN THE COLD CONFINES OF THE **ZODIAC HQ**, WE **RETURN** TO STARK INDUSTRIES, AND A SCENE OF POTENTIAL **CHAOS**...

FURY! THEN IT IS A **DOUBLE PRIZE** WE SHALL CLAIM THIS **DAY!**

CAPRICORN!

GUESS **AGAIN**, ANTLERS! NICK FURY'S NOT GONNA BE STANDIN' AROUND WITH HIS **THUMB** UP HIS EAR WHILE YOU GUYS ARE MAKIN' **SPEECHES**--!

THAT AINT SHIELD'S **STYLE!**

=**OOOOF!**=

HIT 'EM **HARD**, TIN MAN--DON'T GIVE 'EM A CHANCE TO **OUTNUMBER** US!

NO PROBLEM, NICK! YOU HOLD UP **YOUR** END-- AND I'LL HOLD UP **MINE!**

=**UUUH!**=

VERBOSE **FOOL!** YOU'LL HAVE TO BE **STRONGER** AND **QUICKER** TO BEST **AQUARIUS!**

MUCH STRONGER!

THUD!

=**AAAH!**=

SURE, AND DON'T FORGET OL' **KEVIN O'BRIAN,** IRON MAN!

I'LL NOT BE **TWIDDLIN'** ME FINGERS, YOU KNOW!

NOW, CAPRICORN! THE MAN IS HELPLESS!

:UUUH!:

WHUMP!

TIGHTER, FOOL--HOLD HIM TIGHTER!

TOO LATE, PAL! YOUR FRIEND'S GOT A BAD CASE OF BUTTERED FINGERS!

SLAM!

HE OUGHTA DO SUMTHIN' ABOUT IT, BEFORE IT GETS 'IM IN TROUBLE!

WHAT'S WITH YOU CLOWNS? IF YOU CALL THAT SLIP-PIN' UP BEHIND--

--YOU'RE IN WORSE SHAPE THAN A TURTLE IN SNEAKERS!

BOK!

MOCK US IF YOU MUST, NICK FURY--IT ONLY DISPLAYS THE EXTENT OF YOUR IGNORANCE!

FOR WHILE YOU LAUGH...

...WE ARE WINNING!

:AAAAHHH!:

AND IN THE FINAL ANALYSIS--

--IT IS NOT HE WHO FOUGHT WELL WHO IS REMEMBERED--

--BUT HE WHO WON!

YES, FURY--IN MY BOOK!

MAYBE...IN... YOUR...BOOK, CAPRICORN...

THAT'S IT, IRON MAN--STRAIN! WE HAVE MODIFIED THE D-RAY SINCE SPYMASTER BROUGHT IT INTO PLAY AGAINST YOU...

SPYMASTER? THEN...HE WAS SENT...BY THE ZODIAC?

THIS TIME YOU WILL NOT OVERCOME!

OF COURSE! DID YOU NOT KNOW?

JUS' LET ME...GET IN ONE... PUNCH...

PRECISELY THE POINT, RASH ONE--

--YOU WILL NOT GET THAT CHANCE!

FOR YOU ARE AS NOTHING TO US--

--DO YOU HEAR?

--AS NOTHING!

STOP MOVIN'... YA BLINKING COWARD...

...STOP... MOVIN'...

THEN THE PAIN FADES FOR KEVIN O'BRIAN... AND WITH IT GOES CONSCIOUSNESS...

AND NOW, TO PICK UP ON ANOTHER CONVERSATION...

NO, SAGGITARIUS --I DIDN'T KNOW... AND THAT KNOW-LEDGE PUTS A WHOLE NEW LIGHT ON THINGS!

THAT MAKES ZODIAC RESPONSIBLE FOR JASPER'S CONDITION--

--AND THAT MEANS YOU--ALL OF YOU--

--ARE GOING TO PAY!

THAT'S IT, IRON MAN! JUST GIVE ME A CHANCE FOR A BREATHER--

--AN' THEN FURY'LL GET BACK ON TOP--

DO WHAT YOU WANT, FURY! BUT GET IT CLEAR--

--THIS IS MY GAME NOW!

UNDER-STAND, HEROES?

MY GAME!

UNSEEN BY THE OTHERS, A STRANGE, PULSATING GREY CLOUD APPEARS IN THE DARKNESS OVER THE ZODIAC KEY, AND A HOLLOW, ETHEREAL VOICE WHISPERS SOFTLY, YET FIRMLY, TO KEVIN O'BRIAN...

KEVIN... KEVIN...

THE KEY, KEVIN...TAKE UP THE KEY...

THE FORCE-FIELD IS FADING, KEVIN... TAKE THE KEY... TAKE IT!

LIKE A MAN POSSESSED, THE BATTERED IRISH-MAN RISES, STAGGERS FORWARD...

...AND WITHOUT A WORD, LIFTS UP THE KEY...

NOW, KEVIN! NOW!

AAAAAAAAAAHH!

FURY-- LOOK OUT!

AAAAH!

THAT WILL BE ENOUGH, KEVIN! YOU MAY RELEASE THE KEY NOW...

AQUARIUS-- TAKE THE KEY FROM HIM, AND HOLD IT IN A SAFE PLACE UNTIL I INSTRUCT YOU FURTHER...!

OF COURSE, SIR! IT IS OUR ONLY DESIRE-- TO OBEY YOUR COMMANDS!

CAPRICORN... RETURN WITH YOUR MEN TO THE OTHER PLACE, AND TAKE THESE MEN WITH YOU...!

SOON, IN AN UNDERGROUND HEADQUARTERS DEEP BENEATH MANHATTAN'S **WEST SIDE HIGHWAY,** THE COSTUMED MEMBERS OF THE GROUP CALLED **THE ZODIAC** ASSEMBLE TO MOCK THEIR CAPTIVES...

AHHH, ***IRON MAN***-- I NOTE THE GLARE OF ***HATRED*** IN YOUR EYES--CAN IT BE THAT THE ***GOLDEN AVENGER*** KNOWS THE BITE OF A ***HUMAN*** EMOTION?

WHAT, NO ***WORDS*** IN ANSWER? OR DOES THE ***FORCEFIELD*** PARALYZE YOUR ***VOCAL CORDS?***

HOW ***STRANGE!*** ONE WOULD SUSPECT YOU WERE ***INCAPABLE*** OF SUCH ***DEPTH...!***

QUIET, SPYMASTER! THEY'RE NO ***THREAT*** TO US NOW...

WE MUST ***TRY*** TO REMAIN ***CIVILIZED!***

THIS IS THE MOMENT TOWARDS WHICH WE'VE ***STRUGGLED*** THESE MANY MONTHS ***WELCOME*** IT...

...***SAVOR*** IT!

THREE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT ***LAWMEN*** IN ***NEW YORK!*** EVEN BEYOND THE PURELY ***MERCENARY*** ASPECTS REWARDING THIS ***ACCOMPLISHMENT***--

--THERE IS A SENSE OF ***SATISFACTION*** IN SEEING THEM ***CONFINED*** SO!

LOOK AT THEM-- ***TRUSSED*** BY THE FORCEFIELD LIKE A SET OF ***HAMS*** ON A ***RACK!***

HELPLESS!

NOW THE ***ZODIAC*** CAN BEGIN TO ***PLAN*** ITS CRIMES IN ***EARNEST!***

NOT QUITE ***YET...*** THERE STILL REMAINS BUT ONE FINAL ***ASPECT*** OF OUR ***AGREEMENT*** TO ***FULFILL...***

CERTAINLY!

AFTER ALL--WE *OWE* THIS MOMENT TO *YOU*... TO YOUR AID AND *PROTECTION*...

WHAT IS IT YOU *WISH*?

RELEASE FURY, AND GIVE HIM THE *KEY*!

AS YOU *COMMAND*... IT IS *DONE*!

THE FABRIC OF SPACE CRACKLES OPEN, AND NICK FURY STANDS FREE... BUT...

IT'S...*IMPOSSIBLE*! I WANNA WADE INTO THOSE CLOWNS AND BUST OPEN A FEW *SKULLS*...

...BUT I *CAN'T*! SUMTHIN' INSIDE IS *STOPPING* ME--HOLDING ME BACK LIKE A *CLAW* CLAMPED AROUND MY *MIDDLE*!

COME FORWARD, NICHOLAS FURY... ACCEPT THE *KEY*...

I...I CAN'T *STOP* MYSELF...

...BUT--I'VE *GOT* TO--

TAKE THE KEY...

...'CAUSE SUMTHIN' TWISTING IN MY *MIND* IS TELLIN' ME THAT IF I *TAKE* THAT *KEY*--

...IT'LL BE THE *END* OF *NICK FURY*!

THE KEY, FURY...

TAKE THE KEY!!

TO BE *CONTINUED*-- BELIEVE IT OR DON'T--IN THE PAGES OF *DAREDEVIL #73*-- ***NOW ON SALE!***

DARE-DEVIL
15¢
73
FEB
DAREDEVIL
THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR!
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
MARVEL COMICS GROUP
IRON MAN CAN'T HELP YOU, DD--AND NEITHER CAN NICK FURY!
YOU'RE GOING TO DIE-- NOW!
REVEALED AT LAST!! THE SINISTER SECRET OF ZODIAC!

DAREDEVIL, THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR!™

Behold... The Brotherhood!
STRAIN, FURY! FEEL THE TWISTED PULL OF LOYALTIES TEARING OUT YOUR GUT! WHAT DARK FORCE DRIVES YOU TO GROPE FOR THE GLOWING ZODIAC KEY-- WHAT POWER HOLDS YOU IN ITS TIGHTENING GRIP?
ANSWERS-- WHAT ANSWER CAN THERE BE? WHAT ANSWER FOR A MAN DOOMED?
DON'T DO IT, FURY! IF YOU FALL --- WE'RE ALL FINISHED!
NOTE FOR COMPLETISTS: BOTH THIS SAGA AND IRON MAN #35 WERE PLOTTED BY AFFABLE ALLYN BRODSKY! --STAN.
IF YOU HAVEN'T READ IRON MAN #35, AND ARE WONDERING JUST WHAT'S GOING DOWN-- DIG IT--OUR VERY OWN GIFT FLASHBACK--!
460Z

STAN LEE EDITOR • GERRY CONWAY WRITER • GENE COLAN ARTIST • SYD SHORES EMBELLISHER • SAM ROSEN LETTERER

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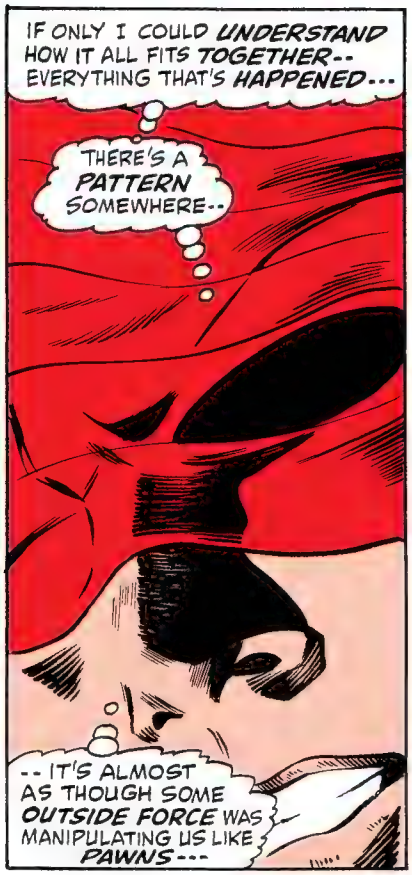
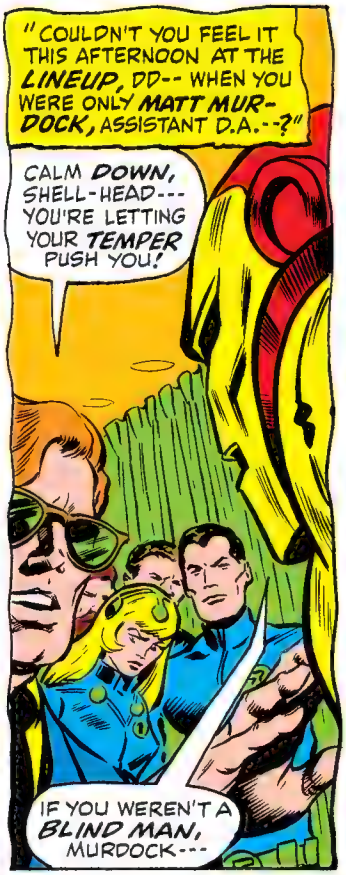
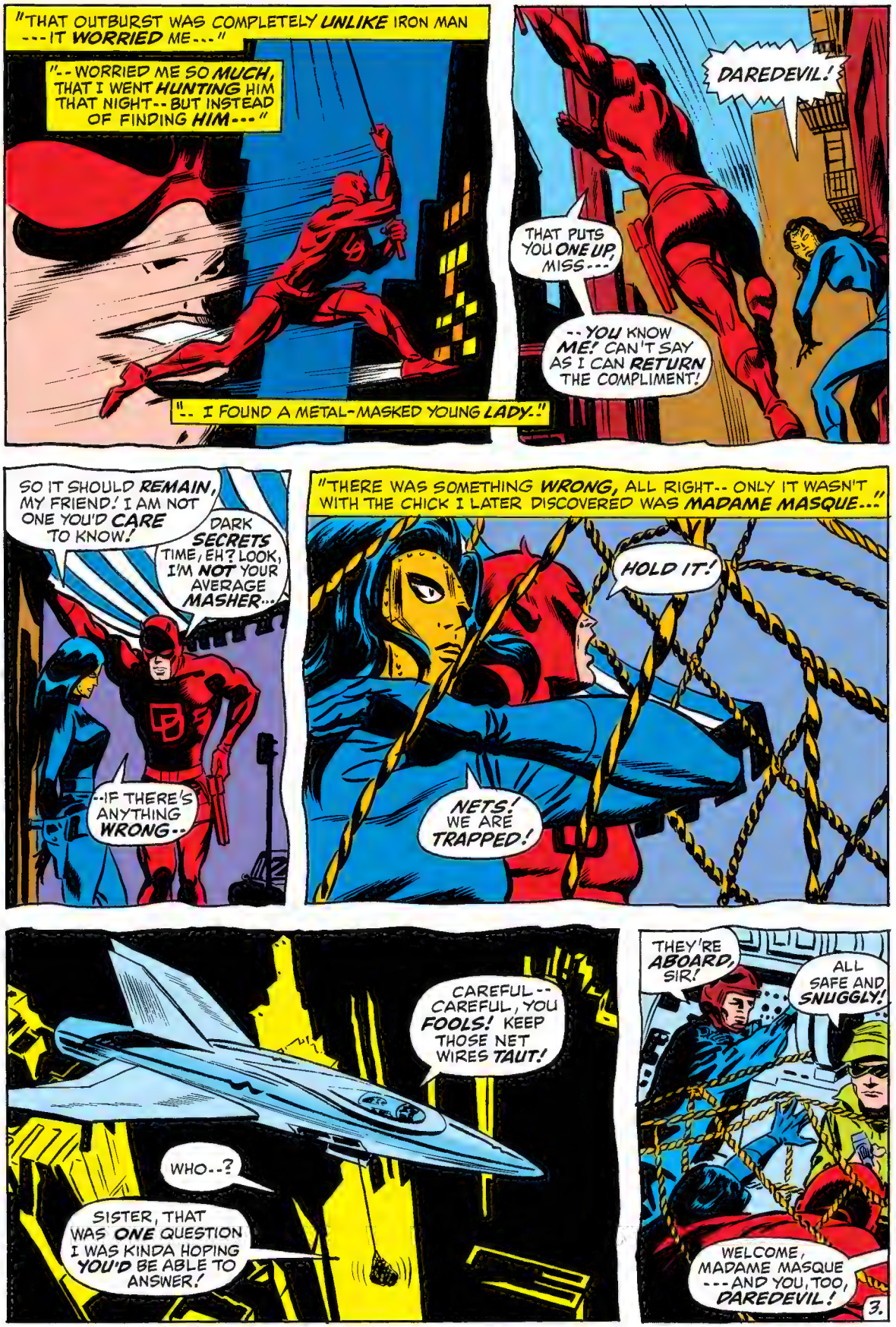
WATCH HIM-- SEE HOW HE FIGHTS THE PULL-- THE STRENGTH OF NICK FURY IS INDEED LEGENDARY..
BUT IT COMES TO NAUGHT AGAINST THE ENERGY OF THE KEY!
MY STOMACH'S CHURNING LIKE A BLASTED VOLCANO--
-- FEEL MYSELF SLIPPIN'--- LOSIN' CONTROL--!
COME ON, FURY--HANG IN THERE!

NO WAY, NICK-- I CAN HEAR YOUR PULSEBEAT QUICKENING---
IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF MINUTES!


IF ONLY I COULD UNDERSTAND HOW IT ALL FITS TOGETHER-- EVERYTHING THAT'S HAPPENED---
THERE'S A PATTERN SOMEWHERE--
-- IT'S ALMOST AS THOUGH SOME OUTSIDE FORCE WAS MANIPULATING US LIKE PAWNS---


"COULDN'T YOU FEEL IT THIS AFTERNOON AT THE LINEUP, DD-- WHEN YOU WERE ONLY MATT MURDOCK, ASSISTANT D.A.--?"
CALM DOWN, SHELL-HEAD--- YOU'RE LETTING YOUR TEMPER PUSH YOU!
IF YOU WEREN'T A BLIND MAN, MURDOCK---

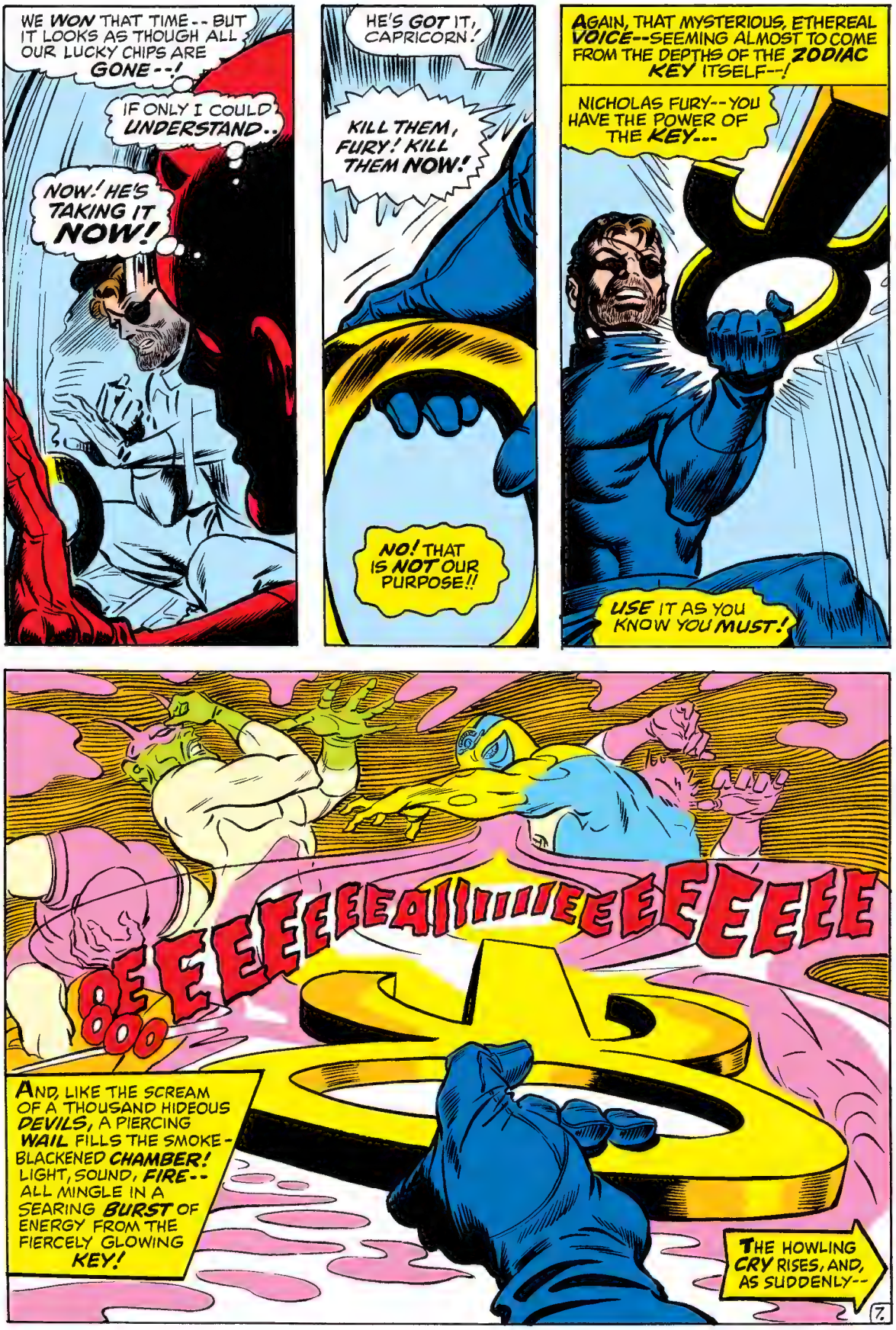
-- I'D SHOW YOU WHAT ANGER REALLY IS. JASPER SITWELL IS DYING BECAUSE OF SPYMASTER--
---AND IF YOU WON'T LET ME FORCE HIS WHEREABOUTS OUT OF THESE-- THESE ---
FORGET IT, LAWYER MAN!
I'LL FIND HIM MYSELF!
2.

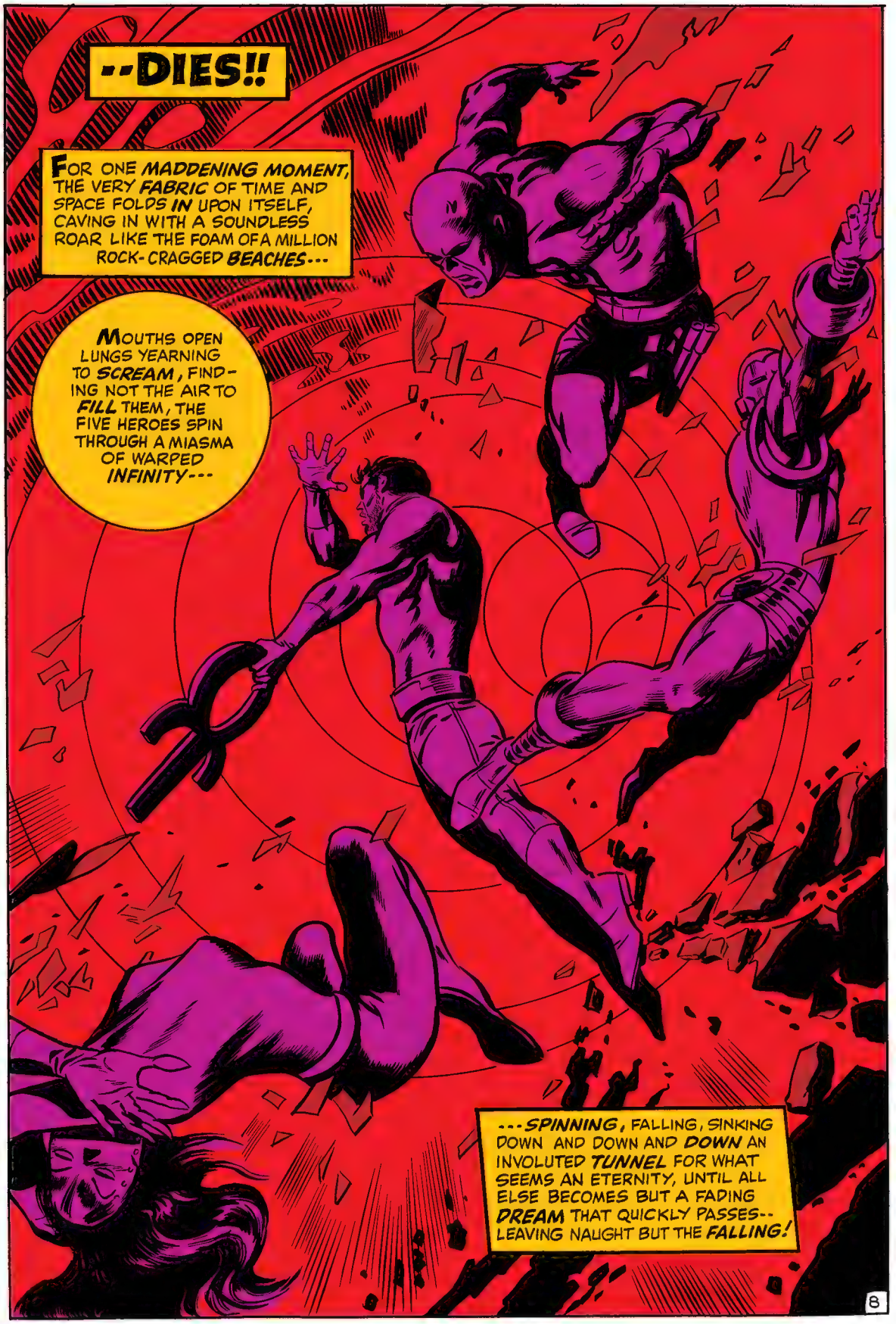

"THAT OUTBURST WAS COMPLETELY UNLIKE IRON MAN ---IT WORRIED ME---"
"--WORRIED ME SO MUCH, THAT I WENT HUNTING HIM THAT NIGHT--BUT INSTEAD OF FINDING HIM---"
"-- I FOUND A METAL-MASKED YOUNG LADY--"
DAREDEVIL!
THAT PUTS YOU ONE UP, MISS---
--YOU KNOW ME! CAN'T SAY AS I CAN RETURN THE COMPLIMENT!
SO IT SHOULD REMAIN, MY FRIEND! I AM NOT ONE YOU'D CARE TO KNOW!
DARK SECRETS TIME, EH? LOOK, I'M NOT YOUR AVERAGE MASHER...
--IF THERE'S ANYTHING WRONG--
"THERE WAS SOMETHING WRONG, ALL RIGHT-- ONLY IT WASN'T WITH THE CHICK I LATER DISCOVERED WAS MADAME MASQUE..."
HOLD IT!
NETS! WE ARE TRAPPED!
CAREFUL-- CAREFUL, YOU FOOLS! KEEP THOSE NET WIRES TAUT!
WHO--?
SISTER, THAT WAS ONE QUESTION I WAS KINDA HOPING YOU'D BE ABLE TO ANSWER!
THEY'RE ABOARD, SIR!
ALL SAFE AND SNUGGLY!
WELCOME, MADAME MASQUE ---AND YOU, TOO, DAREDEVIL!
3.

THEY CALL ME--- SPYMASTER! I HOPE THIS LITTLE-- AH, ABDUCTION HASN'T INCONVENIENCED YOU---
BUT I'M AFRAID YOU'LL HAVE TO REMAIN OUR GUESTS FOR QUITE A WHILE!
SORRY, HANDSOME-- BUT I'VE GOT OTHER PLANS---
--FOR YOU-- AND YOUR SLIPPERY-FINGERED FRIENDS!
THE NET-- -- THEY'RE FREE--AWWK!
THAT WAS HARDLY THE MOST PERCEPTIVE OBSERVATION EVER MADE!
-- BUT AT LEAST IT WAS A PROPOS!
=MMMF!=
NOW LOOK AT THAT--- HE WALKED RIGHT INTO MY FEET!
YOU MOCK WELL, MY FRIEND!
--A PITY IT WILL DO YOU NO GOOD!
=UUUUHH!=
WHY? WHY DID THE SPYMASTER GO AFTER MADAME MASQUE AND ME? WHAT WAS THE POINT?
THINK, MATTHEW-- USE THAT LEGAL-BEAGLE BRAIN YOU'RE SO PROUD OF--- HOW DOES IT ALL FIT IN?
STEADY, COLONEL!

NO USE-- HE CAN'T HEAR ME ANYMORE -- CAN'T HEAR ANYONE!
HIS HEARTBEAT SOUNDS LIKE A GINGER BAKER DRUMROLL ---
WHAT'S HAPPENING TO HIM?
IT IS IMPOSSIBLE--- HOW MUCH LONGER CAN HE WITHSTAND THE KEY'S POWER?
IT PROCEEDS WELL, SPYMASTER-- SOON, OUR HALF OF THE BARGAIN WILL BE COMPLETED---
---AND THE OTHERS WILL UPHOLD THEIRS!
AND THEN THE COUNTRY--- NO, THE WORLD WILL BE OURS!
HE'S BREAKING--- THIS IS IT-- THE FINAL MOMENT!
AND WHAT THOUGHTS RACE THROUGH A MAN'S MIND AT THAT MEETING WITH DESTINY? WHAT MEMORIES-- WHAT FORMER TRIUMPHS AND FAILURES?
FOR DAREDEVIL, IT IS A MEMORY OF YET ANOTHER DAY IN CONFLICT WITH THE GANG KNOWN AS THE ZODIAC--*
--HELPLESS! THEY CAN DO NOTHING TO SAVE YOU--
---AND UNLESS THE RANSOM IS MET, ALL MANHATTAN WILL DIE!
*AVENGERS #82, BIBLIOPHILES! --STAN.
5

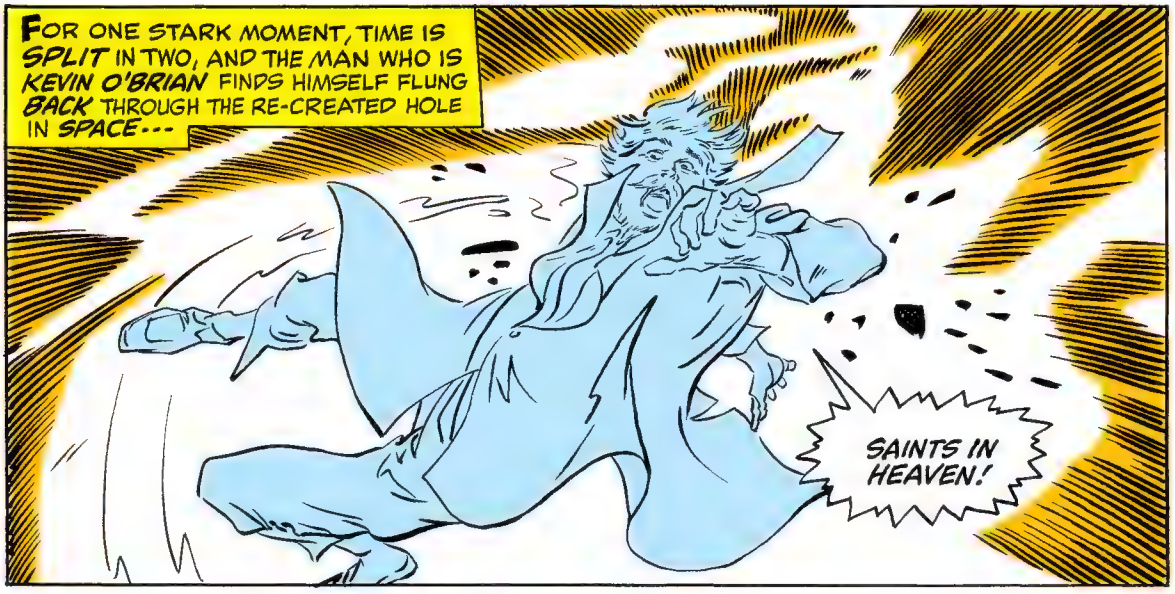
OKAY, MATTHEW -- WHAT NOW? BRAVE MAN IN A DISGUISE-- WHAT DO YOU DO NOW?
THE AVENGERS NEED HELP--
--SO HELP!
ARE WE ALL GOING TO SIT HERE-- PLAY DEAF AND DUMB-- BE BLIND?
WELL, NOT ME!
YOU BE SHEEP--I'LL GO DOWN FIGHTING!
IF THAT'S THE WAY YOU WANT IT--
-- THAT'S THE WAY IT'LL BE!
HE'S DOWN! THAT CLINCHES IT!
THE FOOL-- NOW HE'LL BE EXECUTED WITH THE OTHERS!
UH-UNH---JUST KEEP DRAGGING ME CLOSER TO THE PODIUM--
--AND IF THAT HUMMING SOUND IS THE MACHINE I THINK IT IS---
THERE'S GOING TO BE A WHOLE NEW BALL GAME!
GUIDING HIS AIM BY THE DIRECTION OF THE SOUND, MATT PUNCHED A HALF-FOOT LENGTH OF TENSILE-STEEL WIRE INTO THE MACHINE IMPRISONING THE AVENGERS--
FWITT
-- WHICH DID THE EXPECTED JOB---
NOW SHALL MIGHTY THOR SHOW THESE MORTALS WHAT THEIR GREED HATH WROUGHT---
DON'T LEAVE OL' SHELL-HEAD OUT OF THAT ACCOUNTING, THUNDER GOD!
WE'VE EACH GOT OUR OWN PRIVATE SCORES TO SETTLE!
6


WE WON THAT TIME -- BUT IT LOOKS AS THOUGH ALL OUR LUCKY CHIPS ARE GONE --!
IF ONLY I COULD UNDERSTAND..
NOW! HE'S TAKING IT NOW!
HE'S GOT IT, CAPRICORN!
KILL THEM, FURY! KILL THEM NOW!
NO! THAT IS NOT OUR PURPOSE!!
AGAIN, THAT MYSTERIOUS, ETHEREAL VOICE--SEEMING ALMOST TO COME FROM THE DEPTHS OF THE ZODIAC KEY ITSELF--!
NICHOLAS FURY--YOU HAVE THE POWER OF THE KEY---
USE IT AS YOU KNOW YOU MUST!
EEEE

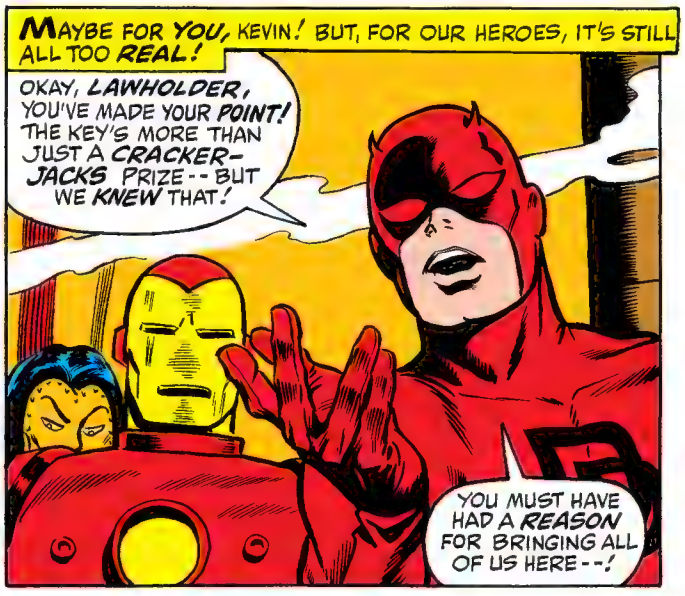

--DIES!!
FOR ONE MADDENING MOMENT, THE VERY FABRIC OF TIME AND SPACE FOLDS IN UPON ITSELF, CAVING IN WITH A SOUNDLESS ROAR LIKE THE FOAM OF A MILLION ROCK-CRAGGED BEACHES---
MOUTHS OPEN LUNGS YEARNING TO SCREAM, FINDING NOT THE AIR TO FILL THEM, THE FIVE HEROES SPIN THROUGH A MIASMA OF WARPED INFINITY---
---SPINNING, FALLING, SINKING DOWN AND DOWN AND DOWN AN INVOLUTED TUNNEL FOR WHAT SEEMS AN ETERNITY, UNTIL ALL ELSE BECOMES BUT A FADING DREAM THAT QUICKLY PASSES-- LEAVING NAUGHT BUT THE FALLING!

THEN THIS TOO PASSES, AND THE TUNNEL OF REALITY QUICKLY REFOCUSES---
--FINDING THEM IN A CHAMBER BOTH DARK AND DRY, FILLED WITH THE EYE-STINGING FUMES OF SPUTTERING TORCHES---
IN THE NAME OF THE BROTHERHOOD, I BID YOU MOST CORDIAL WELCOME!
I AM THE LAW-HOLDER--MOST HIGH PRIEST OF ANKH!
YEAH--AND I'M SANTA CLAUS AND THIS IS DISNEY-LAND!
AN' COME TO THINK OF IT--MAYBE WE ARE!
NUTS! I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO BELIEVE, WHISKERS--MAYBE YOU'VE GOT THE ANSWERS!
YOUR WORDS REVEAL A DISTRAUGHT SOUL--AND SUCH IS AS IT SHOULD BE!
YOU HAVE EXPERIENCED MUCH, AND NOW 'TIS THE TIME FOR AN EXPLANATION!
THIS WHICH YOU CALL THE ZODIAC KEY IS MORE THAN YOU WOULD IMAGINE---!
IT IS THE MYSTIC VALVE THROUGH WHICH THE POWER OF ANKH IS SIPHONED TO ITS BEARER!
ANKH, THE WIND-GIVER--- ANKH THE SUN-HOLDER--- ANKH THE COSMIC ALL OF OUR DIMENSION!
"MANY, MANY CYCLES AGO, THIS KEY WAS FASHIONED FROM THE CARVEN STONE OF THE EARTH AND THE SPILLED BLOOD OF A LAMB---

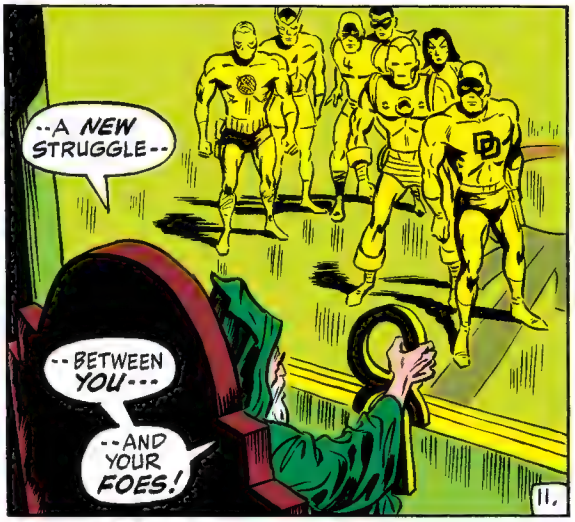
"...AND THUS, BY ITS ORIGINS, IT WAS BOUND INTO THE LIFEBLOOD OF THE ALL-CREATOR!"
FOR MANY YEARS, THE BROTHERHOOD HELD SOLE POSSESSION OF THE KEY, AND THROUGH ITS USE WE STRUCK THE ETERNAL BALANCE BETWEEN ORDER AND CHAOS--"
" FORCES KNOWN TO YOU AS GOOD AND EVIL!"
" BUT IN THE FOURTH GENERATION OF THE CENTURY OF THE LEOPARD, SOMETHING HAPPENED TO THE STRENGTH OF THE KEY---"
" IT BEGAN TO WEAKEN---"
BROTHERS, THE POWER-FLAMES GROW DIM IN THEIR BRAZIERS--- THUS IS SIGNALED THE DYING MIGHT OF OUR BROTHER-HOOD!
NEW LIFE AND BALANCE MUST BE INSTILLED INTO THE SUB-STANCE OF THE KEY!
IT MUST BE SENT FROM OUR WORLD-- WHICH HAS GROWN OLD AND STAGNANT--- TO A NEW WORLD STILL STRUGGLING UNDER THE ETERNAL BATTLE--!
WE SHALL SEND IT TO--EARTH!
THEN IT WAS YOU-- YOU WHAT NEARLY GOT US ALL KILLED!
YE BLOODY DEMON-- WHAT RIGHT 'AVE YE GOT TO DEAL IN THE LIFEBLOOD OF MEN?
RIGHT? YOU SPEAK OF RIGHT?
KNOW THEN THAT ALL RIGHTS MUST PERISH UNDER THE WILL OF ANKH---
FOR 'TIS ONLY THROUGH HIS WILL THAT THE BALANCE, WHICH PROVIDES YOU WITH YOUR "RIGHTS," MAY EXIST!
BEGONE, FOOLISH ONE-- AND SPEAK NO MORE OF "RIGHTS"!
10


FOR ONE STARK MOMENT, TIME IS SPLIT IN TWO, AND THE MAN WHO IS KEVIN O'BRIAN FINDS HIMSELF FLUNG BACK THROUGH THE RE-CREATED HOLE IN SPACE---
SAINTS IN HEAVEN!

-- TO THE GENTLE QUIET OF HIS HOME-- WHERE ALL THAT WENT BEFORE BEGINS TO TAKE ON THE QUALITY OF A DREAM---
STEADY, LAD!
WIT'ANY LUCK-- IT'LL ALL BE NOTHIN' BUT A HEADACHE IN THE MORNIN'!

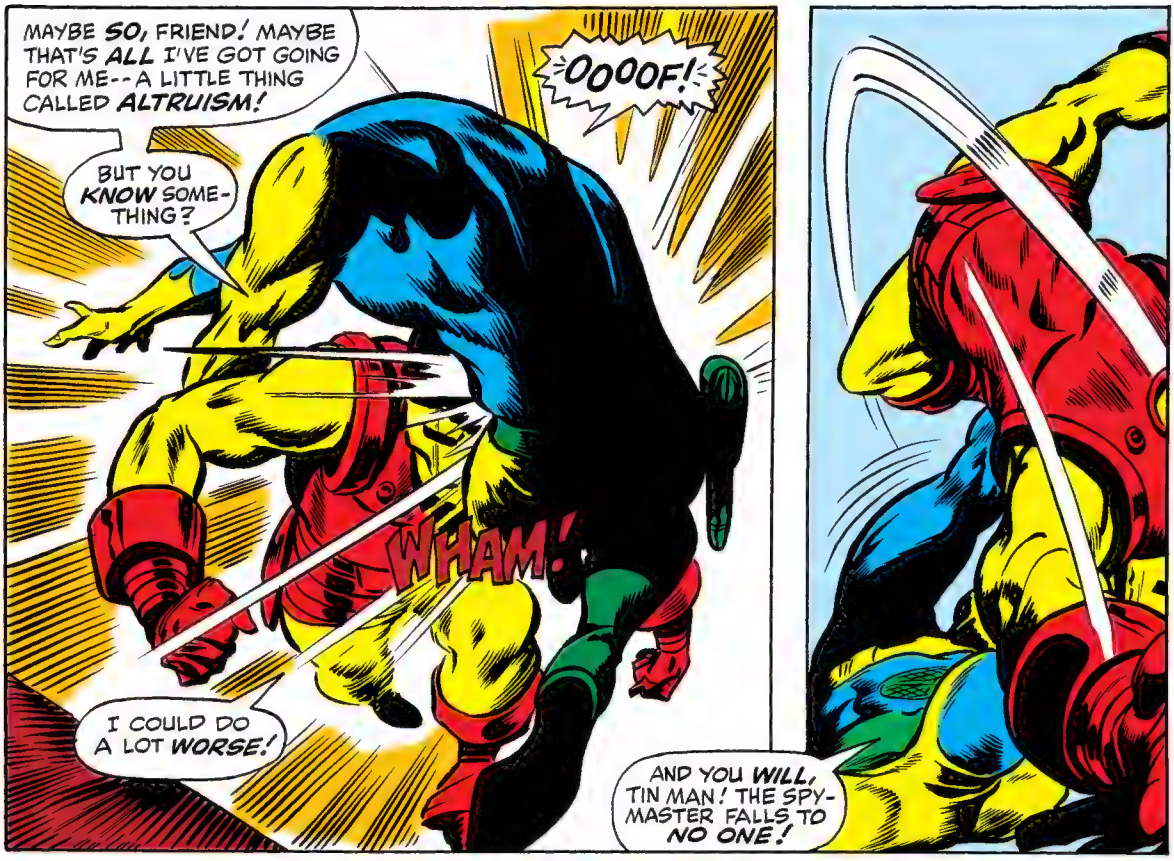

MAYBE FOR YOU, KEVIN! BUT, FOR OUR HEROES, IT'S STILL ALL TOO REAL!
OKAY, LAWHOLDER, YOU'VE MADE YOUR POINT! THE KEY'S MORE THAN JUST A CRACKER-JACKS PRIZE-- BUT WE KNEW THAT!
YOU MUST HAVE HAD A REASON FOR BRINGING ALL OF US HERE--!

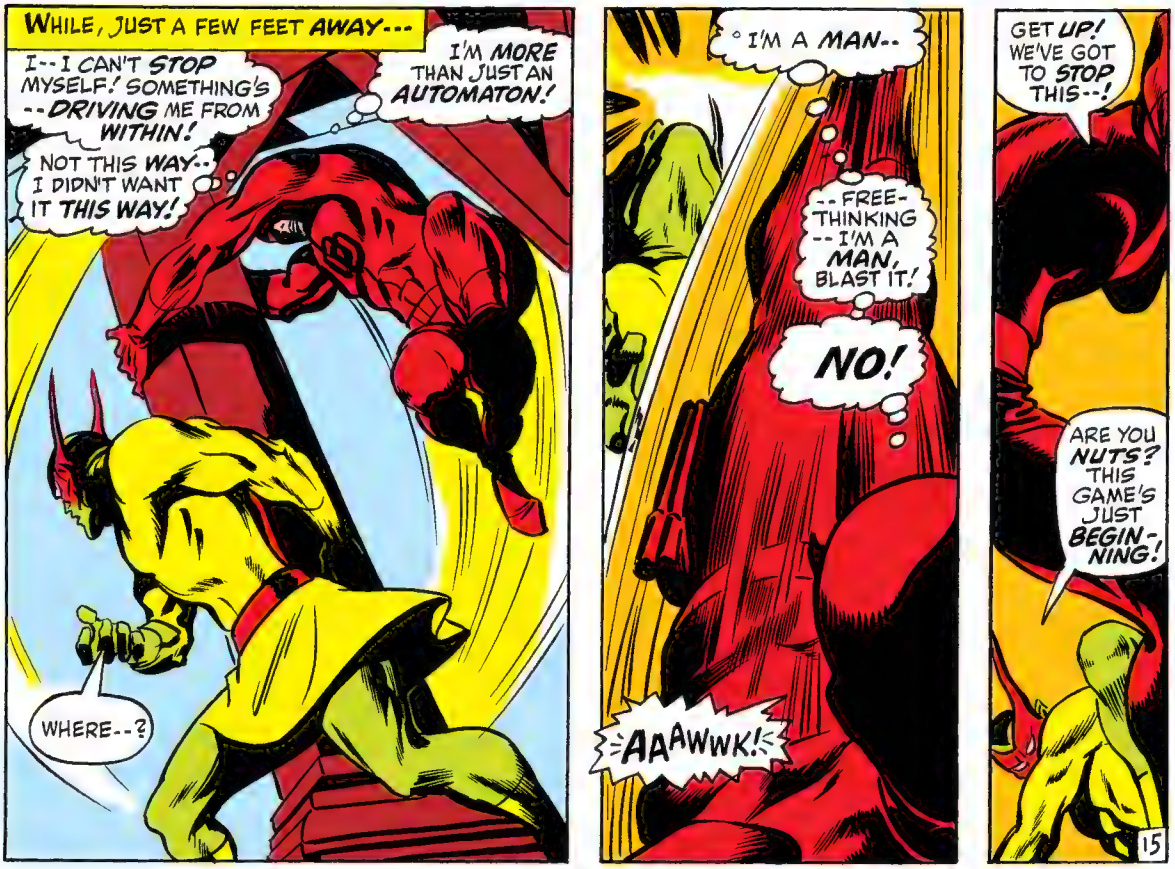
THAT WE DID! WE NEED A REAFFIRMATION OF THE BALANCE-- TOO LONG, OUR WORLD HAS BEEN CALM AND STILL---
THE STRUGGLE BETWEEN ORDER AND CHAOS HAS FOUND ITS LEVEL-- AND THE KEY'S POWER DIES!
I PROPOSE---


--A NEW STRUGGLE--
--BETWEEN YOU---
--AND YOUR FOES!

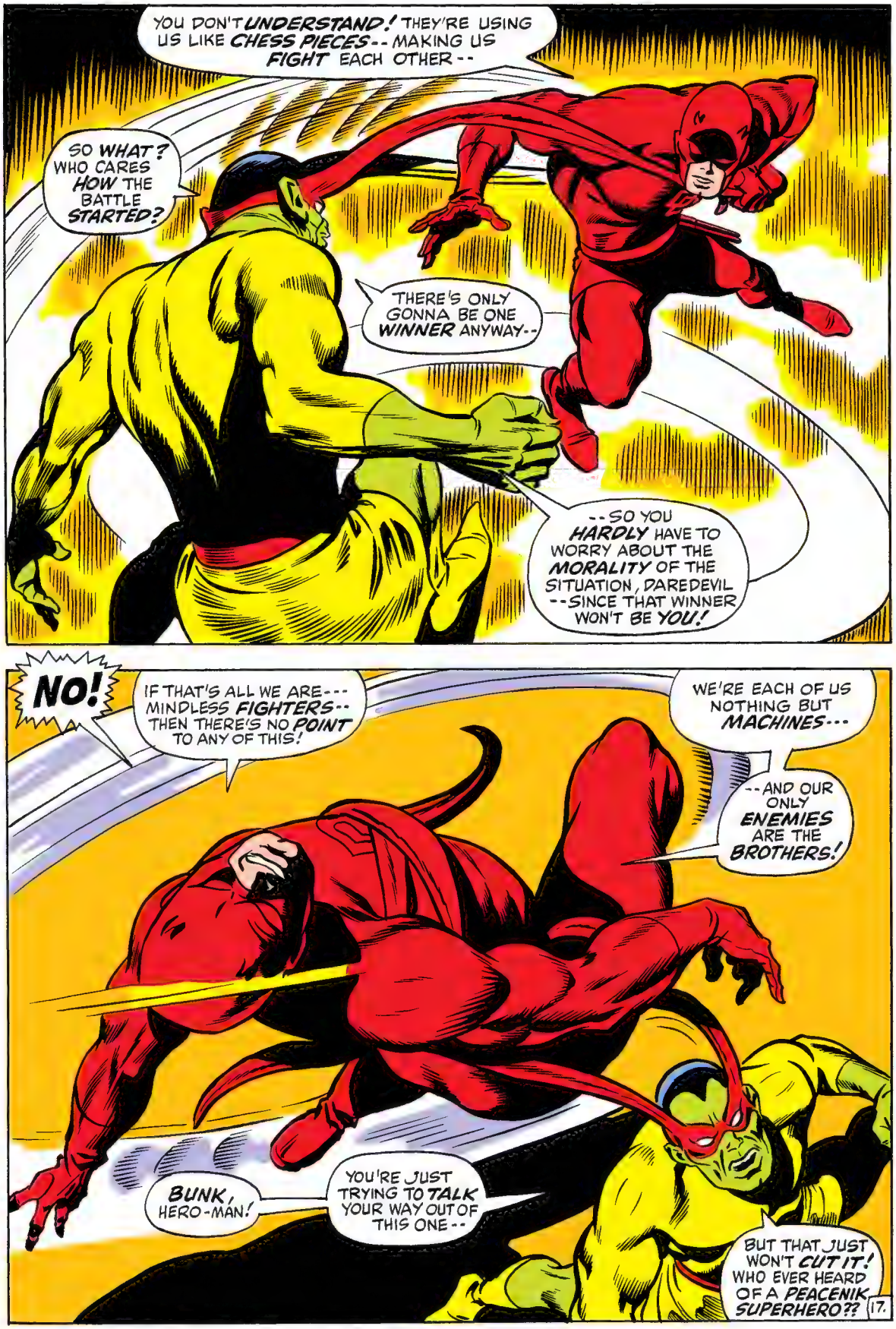
IN THIS WAY THE KEY WILL REGAIN ITS FORMER MAJESTY!
THERE SHALL BE A REWARD FOR THE WINNERS--
--- A PLACE AMONG THE MOST HIGH OF THE BROTHERHOOD!
THAT'S LIKE MAKING A FREE TICKET TO BELLEVUE FIRST PRIZE IN A DANCE CONTEST!
NO, THANKS, FRIEND. WE'LL JUST TAKE OUR PETTY QUARRELS ELSEWHERE!
I'M AFRAID THAT IS QUITE IMPOSSIBLE, MASKED ONE ---
12
THOUGH MAYHAP YOU MUST BE FORCED-- YOU WILL FIGHT!
BY THE POWER OF THE KEY--
-- AND IN THE NAME OF THE BROTHERHOOD--
-- YOU WILL FIGHT!
13.

CAPRICORN!
IT APPEARS WE ARE DESTINED TO BATTLE, EH, DAREDEVIL? THEN PERHAPS WE SHOULD MAKE THE BEST OF THE SITUATION?
I'M NOT A PAWN-- YOU CAN'T MAKE ME FIGHT AGAINST MY WILL!
SO YOU WOULD BELIEVE, HORNED ONE! KNOW THAT ANKH'S WILL IS ALL---
--AND THAT IT IS THE WILL OF ANKH THAT YOU NOW BEGIN!
GOING TO BEG OFF, HERO-MAN? THAT'D BE JUST ABOUT YOUR SPEED!
NO CHANCE, SPYMASTER! THERE'S A LITTLE MATTER OF A DYING FRIEND WE HAVE TO SETTLE!
A MAN NAMED SITWELL-- WHO'S A BETTER MAN THAN EITHER OF US---
--AND WHO MIGHT NOW BE GOING SIX FEET UNDER BECAUSE OF YOU! SO DON'T WORRY ABOUT MOTIVATION--
--I'VE GOT ALL I NEED!
IDEALISTIC FOOL!
14


MAYBE SO, FRIEND! MAYBE THAT'S ALL I'VE GOT GOING FOR ME--A LITTLE THING CALLED ALTRUISM!
OOOOF!
BUT YOU KNOW SOMETHING?
WHAM!
I COULD DO A LOT WORSE!
AND YOU WILL, TIN MAN! THE SPYMASTER FALLS TO NO ONE!


WHILE, JUST A FEW FEET AWAY---
I--I CAN'T STOP MYSELF! SOMETHING'S --DRIVING ME FROM WITHIN!
I'M MORE THAN JUST AN AUTOMATON!
NOT THIS WAY-- I DIDN'T WANT IT THIS WAY!
WHERE--?
I'M A MAN--
--FREE-THINKING --I'M A MAN, BLAST IT!
NO!
AAAWWK!
GET UP! WE'VE GOT TO STOP THIS--!
ARE YOU NUTS? THIS GAME'S JUST BEGINNING!

DODGE, WOMAN--- YOU CANNOT AVOID ME FOREVER, AND WHEN I CONNECT---
YOU MAKE ME SHAKE, AQUARIUS!
WHOMP!
BUT I SHALL CERTAINLY TRY TO CONTROL MYSELF--
LIKE THIS!
THUD!
BUT A MOMENT'S ADVANTAGE, MADAME MASQUE --ONE EASILY UPSET!
DO I DETECT A GLIMMER OF FEAR IN YOUR EYE, COLONEL FURY? SUCH IS AS IT SHOULD BE-- WHEN YOU FACE SAGGITARIUS!
YOU KNOW SOMETHING, BUSTER?
WOK!
YOU'RE A LOTTA WIND!
16


YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND! THEY'RE USING US LIKE CHESS PIECES-- MAKING US FIGHT EACH OTHER--
SO WHAT? WHO CARES HOW THE BATTLE STARTED?
THERE'S ONLY GONNA BE ONE WINNER ANYWAY--
--SO YOU HARDLY HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT THE MORALITY OF THE SITUATION, DAREDEVIL --SINCE THAT WINNER WON'T BE YOU!
NO!
IF THAT'S ALL WE ARE--- MINDLESS FIGHTERS-- THEN THERE'S NO POINT TO ANY OF THIS!
WE'RE EACH OF US NOTHING BUT MACHINES---
--AND OUR ONLY ENEMIES ARE THE BROTHERS!
BUNK, HERO-MAN!
YOU'RE JUST TRYING TO TALK YOUR WAY OUT OF THIS ONE--
BUT THAT JUST WON'T CUT IT! WHO EVER HEARD OF A PEACENIK SUPERHERO??
17.

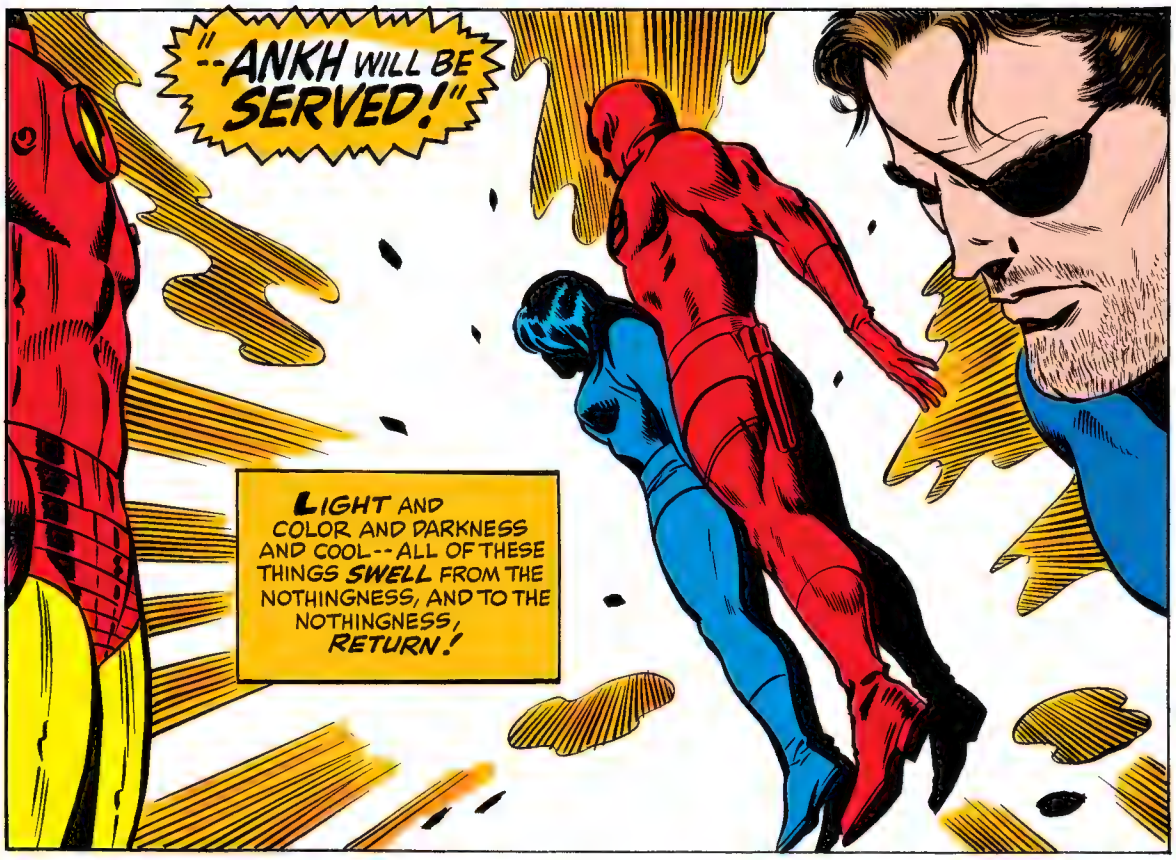
WHOOSH!
SO DON'T WASTE YOUR BREATH--
--'CAUSE YOU DON'T HAVE MUCH LEFT!

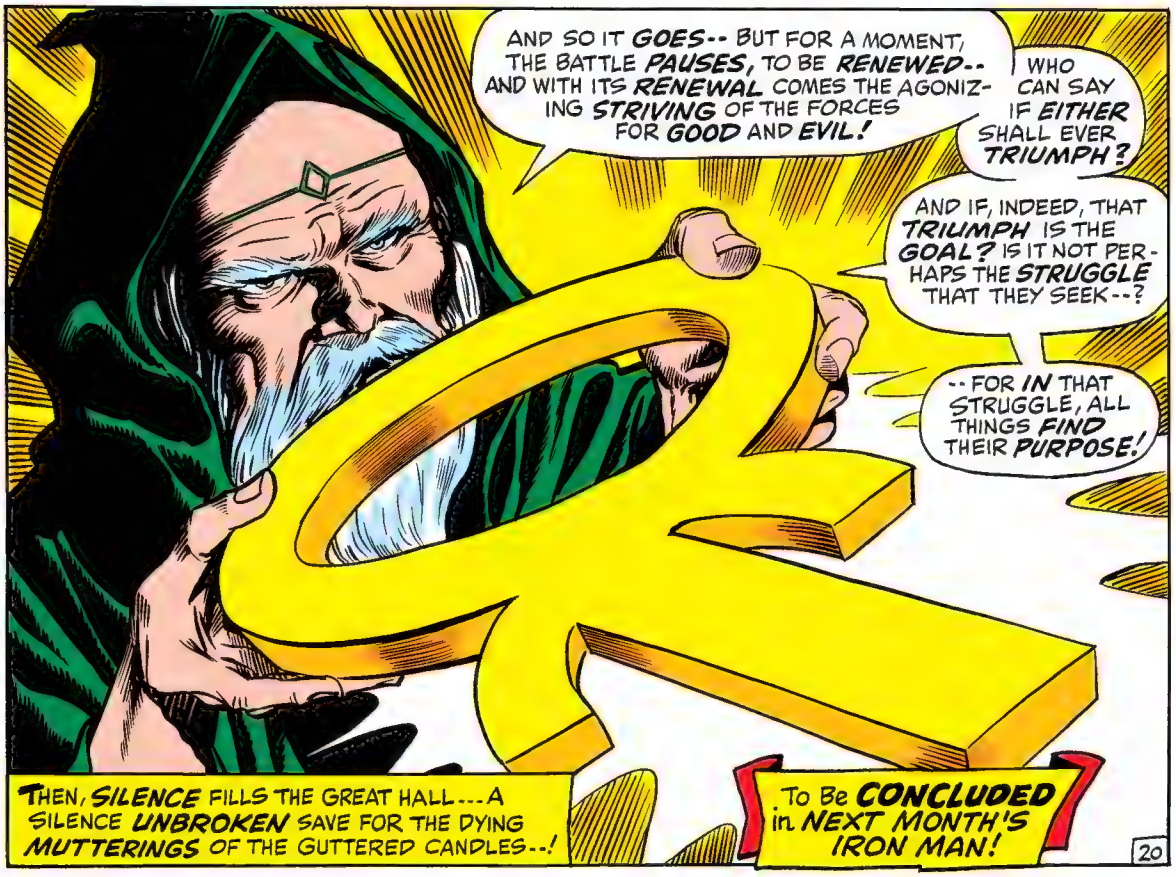
THERE'S NO USE TALKING TO HIM-- HE'S LIKE A MADMAN!
GOT TO CONCENTRATE MY RADAR SENSE-- JUDGE THE RIGHT MOMENT TO TWIST---
--OTHERWISE I'LL LAND LIKE A MESS OF OATMEAL!

DOWN! BUT NOW WHAT--?
SOME SORT OF BURNING FLAKES-- DRIFTING THROUGH THE AIR---

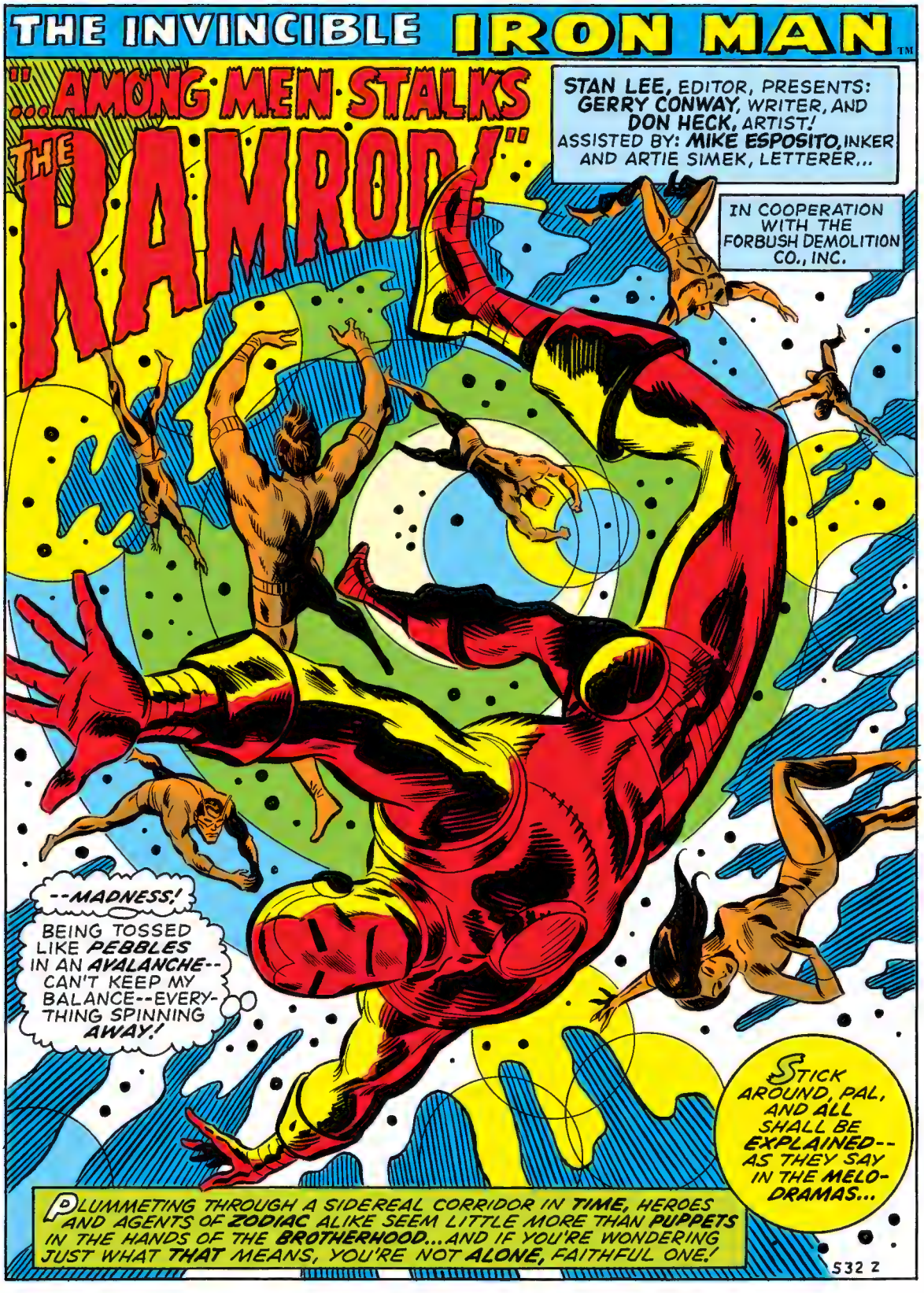
--STINGING, SEARING MY SKIN!
IT'S LIKE A FIREBALL SNOWSTORM!

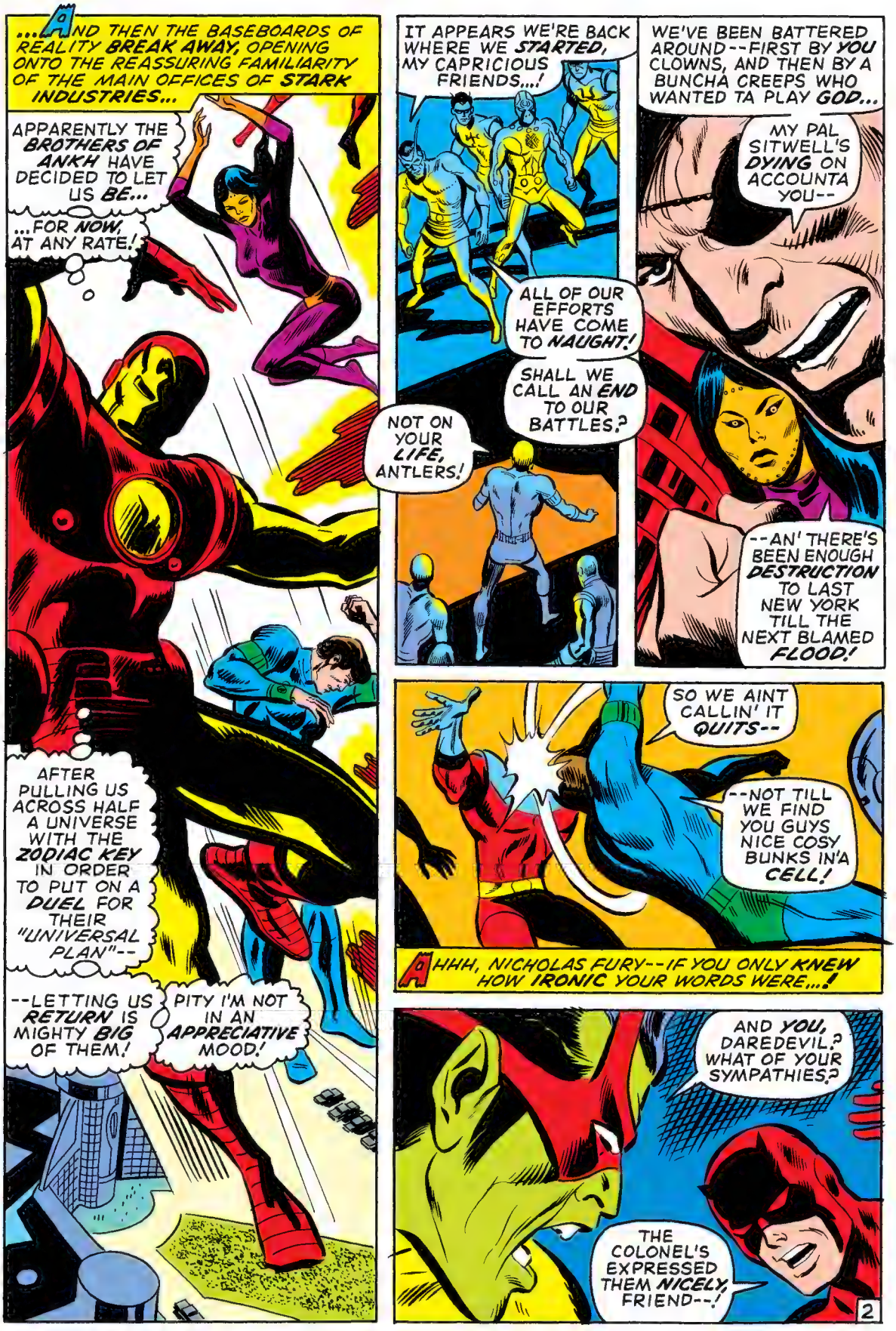
EVERYTHING'S BLURRING -- MY RADAR SENSE IS FADING ···
THERE MUST BE BALANCE!
OVER ALL, THERE MUST BE A WELL-WEIGHED SCALE··· BOTH ORDER AND CHAOS MUST HOLD THEIR RESPECTIVE PLACE!
THE KEY THROBS WITH NEW LIFE!
LET THE BATTLE CONTINUE!
NAY!
BY YOUR INTERFERENCE, YOU HAVE DESTROYED THE BALANCE WE SO DELICATELY SEEK TO WEAVE!
THERE MUST BE AN END!
THE RED-MASKED ONE'S HEART IS NOT IN THIS CONFLICT! THERE CAN BE NO JUST SETTLING OF THE SCALES!
THEN WHAT ANSWER CAN THERE BE?
THE KEY--- HAND TO ME, THE KEY!
SEE HOW HE DUCKS THE BLOWS OF THE ONE CALLED CAPRICORN?
WHAT BALANCE IN THIS?
THEY MUST BE RETURNED TO THEIR OWN CONTINUUM, AND PERHAPS, IN THIS WAY---
19.

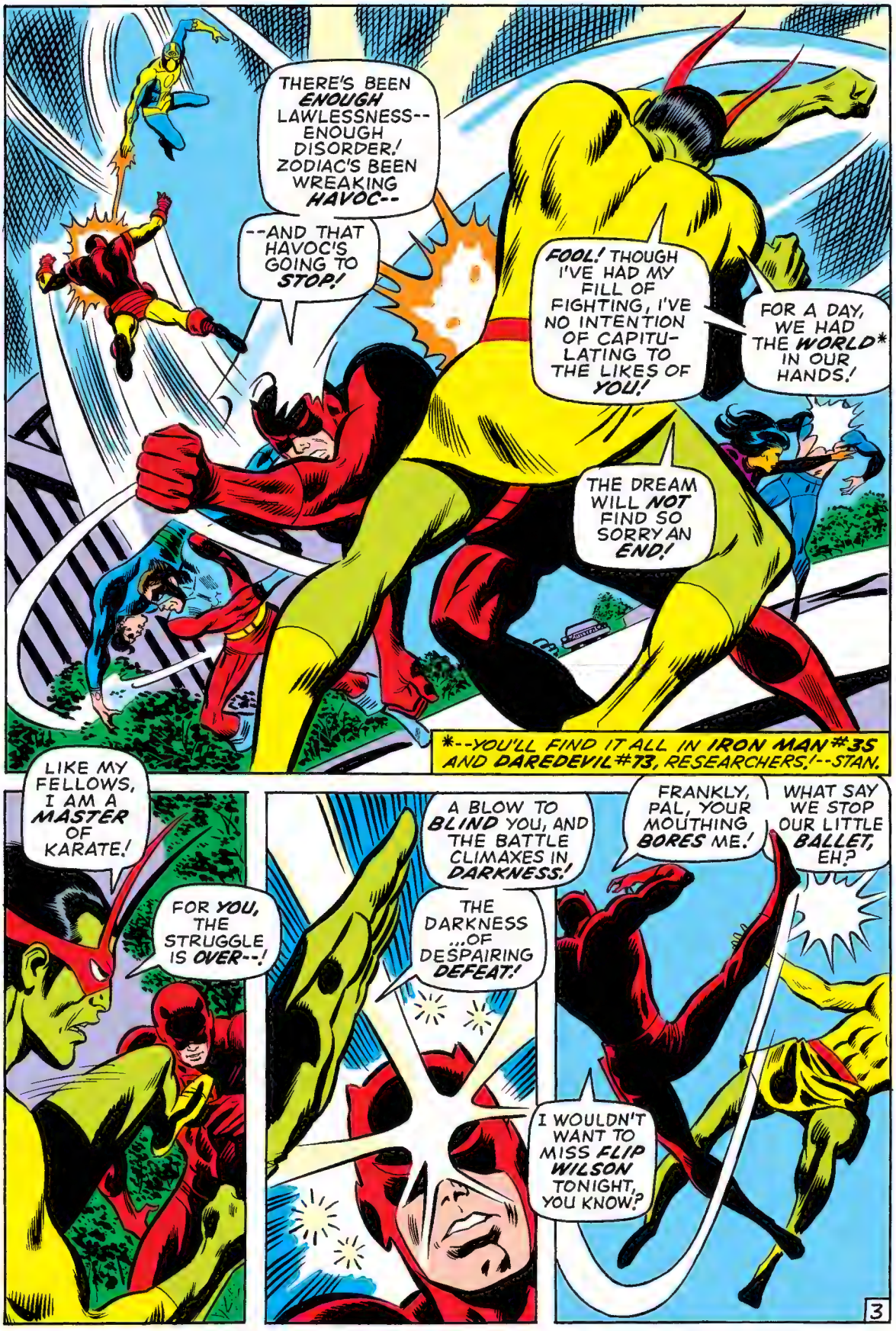

"--ANKH WILL BE SERVED!"
LIGHT AND COLOR AND DARKNESS AND COOL--ALL OF THESE THINGS SWELL FROM THE NOTHINGNESS, AND TO THE NOTHINGNESS, RETURN!

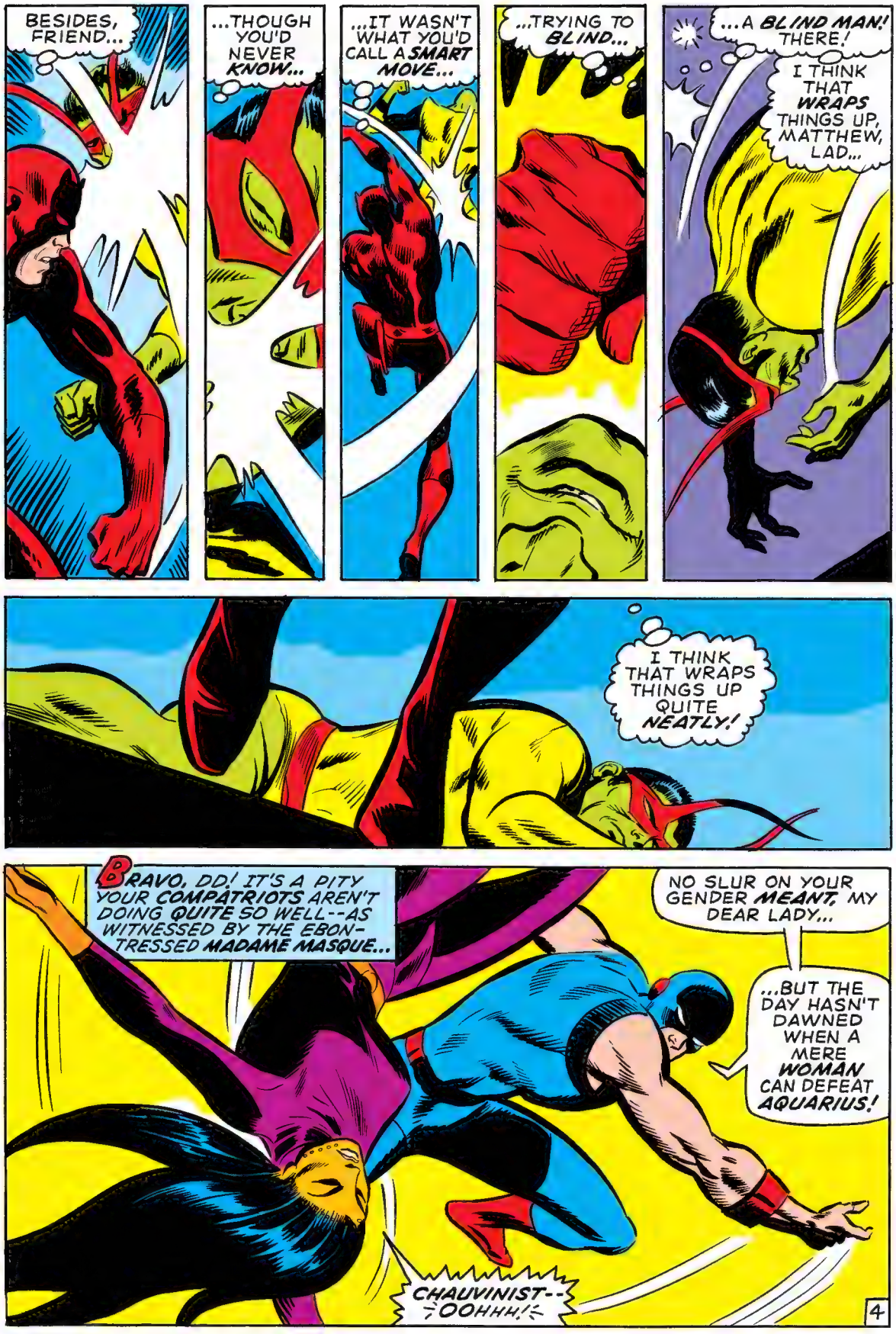

AND SO IT GOES-- BUT FOR A MOMENT, THE BATTLE PAUSES, TO BE RENEWED-- AND WITH ITS RENEWAL COMES THE AGONIZING STRIVING OF THE FORCES FOR GOOD AND EVIL!
WHO CAN SAY IF EITHER SHALL EVER TRIUMPH?
AND IF, INDEED, THAT TRIUMPH IS THE GOAL? IS IT NOT PERHAPS THE STRUGGLE THAT THEY SEEK--?
--FOR IN THAT STRUGGLE, ALL THINGS FIND THEIR PURPOSE!
THEN, SILENCE FILLS THE GREAT HALL---A SILENCE UNBROKEN SAVE FOR THE DYING MUTTERINGS OF THE GUTTERED CANDLES--!
To Be CONCLUDED in NEXT MONTH'S IRON MAN!

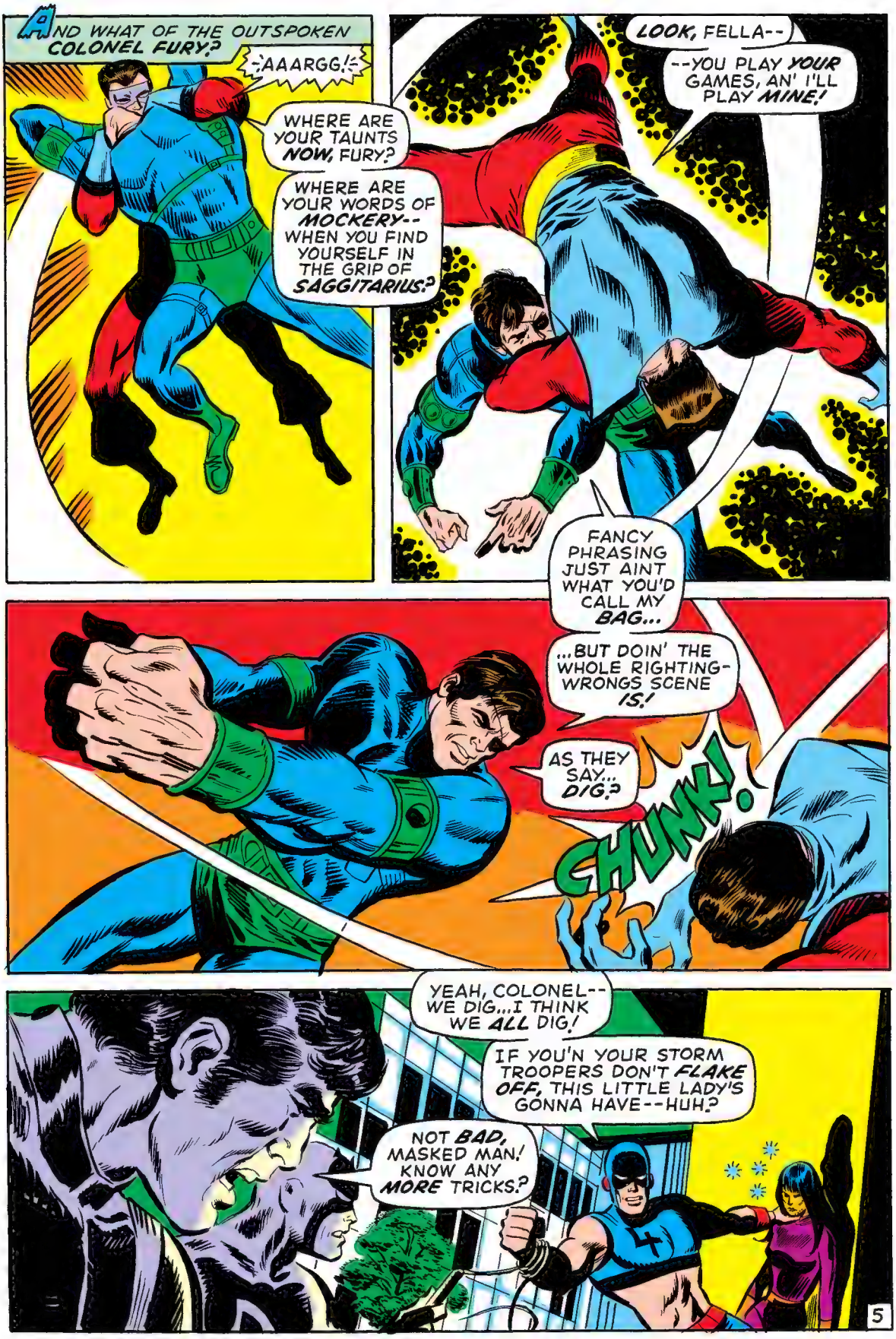
IRON MAN
15¢
36
APR
MARVEL COMICS GROUP
THE INVINCIBLE
IRON MAN
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
YOU ARE A DEAD MAN, AVENGER--
--TOO BAD YOU COULDN'T MATCH UP TO-- THE RAMROD!

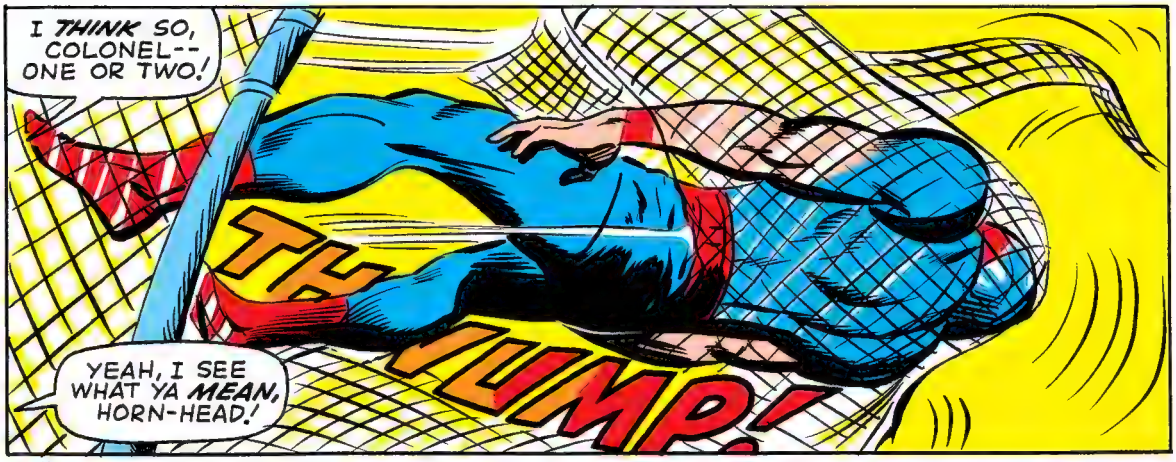

THE INVINCIBLE IRON MAN™
"...AMONG MEN STALKS THE RAMROD!"
STAN LEE, EDITOR, PRESENTS: GERRY CONWAY, WRITER, AND DON HECK, ARTIST! ASSISTED BY: MIKE ESPOSITO, INKER AND ARTIE SIMEK, LETTERER...
IN COOPERATION WITH THE FORBUSH DEMOLITION CO., INC.
--MADNESS! BEING TOSSED LIKE PEBBLES IN AN AVALANCHE--CAN'T KEEP MY BALANCE--EVERYTHING SPINNING AWAY!
STICK AROUND, PAL, AND ALL SHALL BE EXPLAINED--AS THEY SAY IN THE MELODRAMAS...
PLUMMETING THROUGH A SIDEREAL CORRIDOR IN TIME, HEROES AND AGENTS OF ZODIAC ALIKE SEEM LITTLE MORE THAN PUPPETS IN THE HANDS OF THE BROTHERHOOD...AND IF YOU'RE WONDERING JUST WHAT THAT MEANS, YOU'RE NOT ALONE, FAITHFUL ONE!
532 2


...AND THEN THE BASEBOARDS OF REALITY BREAK AWAY, OPENING ONTO THE REASSURING FAMILIARITY OF THE MAIN OFFICES OF STARK INDUSTRIES...
APPARENTLY THE BROTHERS OF ANKH HAVE DECIDED TO LET US BE...
...FOR NOW, AT ANY RATE!
AFTER PULLING US ACROSS HALF A UNIVERSE WITH THE ZODIAC KEY IN ORDER TO PUT ON A DUEL FOR THEIR "UNIVERSAL PLAN"--
--LETTING US RETURN IS MIGHTY BIG OF THEM!
PITY I'M NOT IN AN APPRECIATIVE MOOD!
IT APPEARS WE'RE BACK WHERE WE STARTED, MY CAPRICIOUS FRIENDS...!
ALL OF OUR EFFORTS HAVE COME TO NAUGHT!
SHALL WE CALL AN END TO OUR BATTLES?
NOT ON YOUR LIFE, ANTLERS!
WE'VE BEEN BATTERED AROUND--FIRST BY YOU CLOWNS, AND THEN BY A BUNCHA CREEPS WHO WANTED TA PLAY GOD...
MY PAL SITWELL'S DYING ON ACCOUNTA YOU--
--AN' THERE'S BEEN ENOUGH DESTRUCTION TO LAST NEW YORK TILL THE NEXT BLAMED FLOOD!
SO WE AINT CALLIN' IT QUITS--
--NOT TILL WE FIND YOU GUYS NICE COSY BUNKS IN'A CELL!
AHHH, NICHOLAS FURY--IF YOU ONLY KNEW HOW IRONIC YOUR WORDS WERE...!
AND YOU, DAREDEVIL? WHAT OF YOUR SYMPATHIES?
THE COLONEL'S EXPRESSED THEM NICELY, FRIEND--!
2

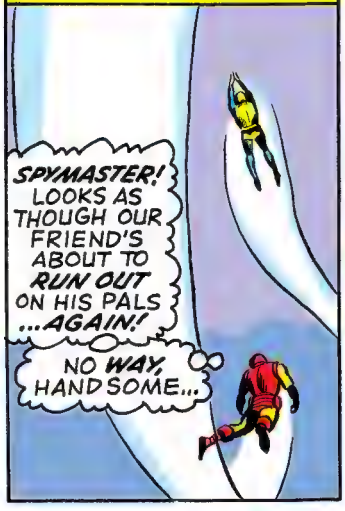

THERE'S BEEN ENOUGH LAWLESSNESS--ENOUGH DISORDER! ZODIAC'S BEEN WREAKING HAVOC--
--AND THAT HAVOC'S GOING TO STOP!
FOOL! THOUGH I'VE HAD MY FILL OF FIGHTING, I'VE NO INTENTION OF CAPITULATING TO THE LIKES OF YOU!
FOR A DAY, WE HAD THE WORLD* IN OUR HANDS!
THE DREAM WILL NOT FIND SO SORRY AN END!
*--YOU'LL FIND IT ALL IN IRON MAN #35 AND DAREDEVIL #73, RESEARCHERS!--STAN.
LIKE MY FELLOWS, I AM A MASTER OF KARATE!
FOR YOU, THE STRUGGLE IS OVER--!
A BLOW TO BLIND YOU, AND THE BATTLE CLIMAXES IN DARKNESS!
THE DARKNESS ...OF DESPAIRING DEFEAT!
FRANKLY, PAL, YOUR MOUTHING BORES ME!
WHAT SAY WE STOP OUR LITTLE BALLET, EH?
I WOULDN'T WANT TO MISS FLIP WILSON TONIGHT, YOU KNOW?
3

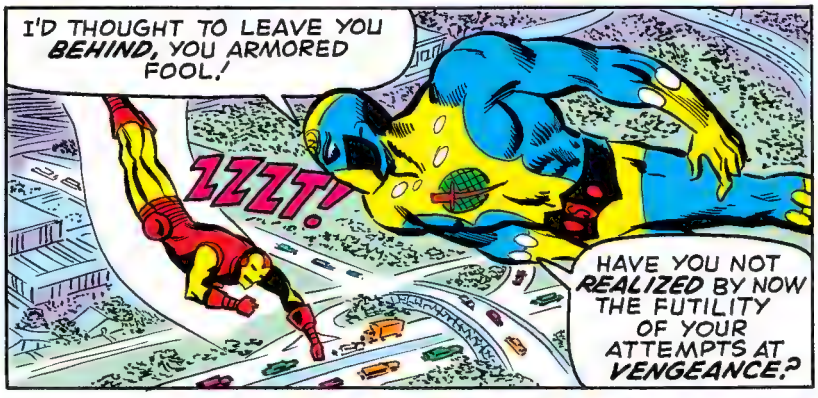

BESIDES, FRIEND...
...THOUGH YOU'D NEVER KNOW...
...IT WASN'T WHAT YOU'D CALL A SMART MOVE...
...TRYING TO BLIND...
...A BLIND MAN! THERE!
I THINK THAT WRAPS THINGS UP, MATTHEW, LAD...
I THINK THAT WRAPS THINGS UP QUITE NEATLY!
BRAVO, DD! IT'S A PITY YOUR COMPATRIOTS AREN'T DOING QUITE SO WELL--AS WITNESSED BY THE EBON-TRESSED MADAME MASQUE...
NO SLUR ON YOUR GENDER MEANT, MY DEAR LADY...
...BUT THE DAY HASN'T DAWNED WHEN A MERE WOMAN CAN DEFEAT AQUARIUS!
CHAUVINIST--
OOHHH!
4

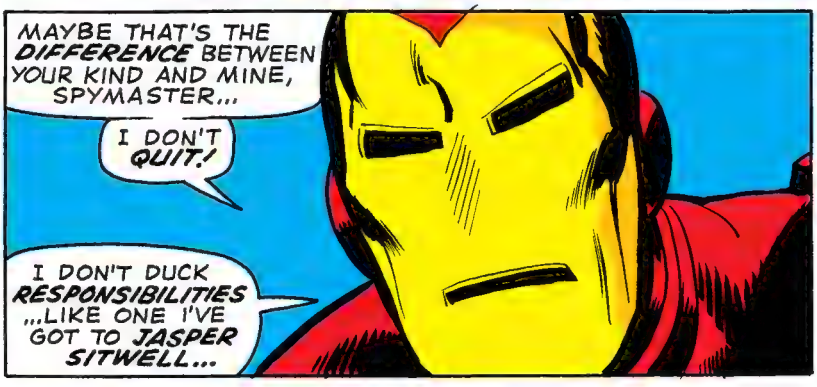

AND WHAT OF THE OUTSPOKEN COLONEL FURY?
-AAARGG!-
WHERE ARE YOUR TAUNTS NOW, FURY?
WHERE ARE YOUR WORDS OF MOCKERY-- WHEN YOU FIND YOURSELF IN THE GRIP OF SAGGITARIUS?
LOOK, FELLA--
--YOU PLAY YOUR GAMES, AN' I'LL PLAY MINE!
FANCY PHRASING JUST AINT WHAT YOU'D CALL MY BAG...
...BUT DOIN' THE WHOLE RIGHTING-WRONGS SCENE IS!
AS THEY SAY... DIG?
CHUNK!
YEAH, COLONEL-- WE DIG...I THINK WE ALL DIG!
IF YOU'N YOUR STORM TROOPERS DON'T FLAKE OFF, THIS LITTLE LADY'S GONNA HAVE--HUH?
NOT BAD, MASKED MAN! KNOW ANY MORE TRICKS?

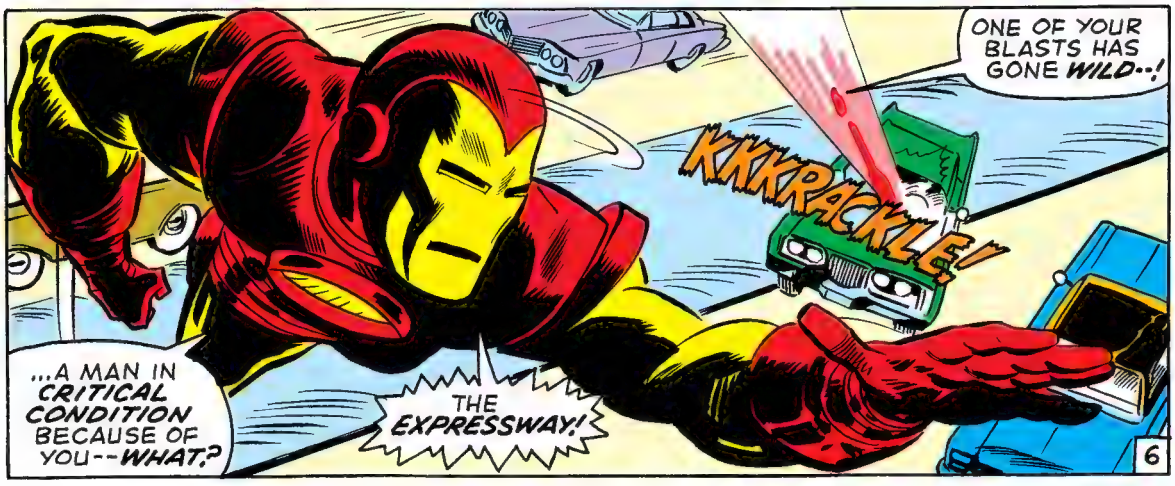


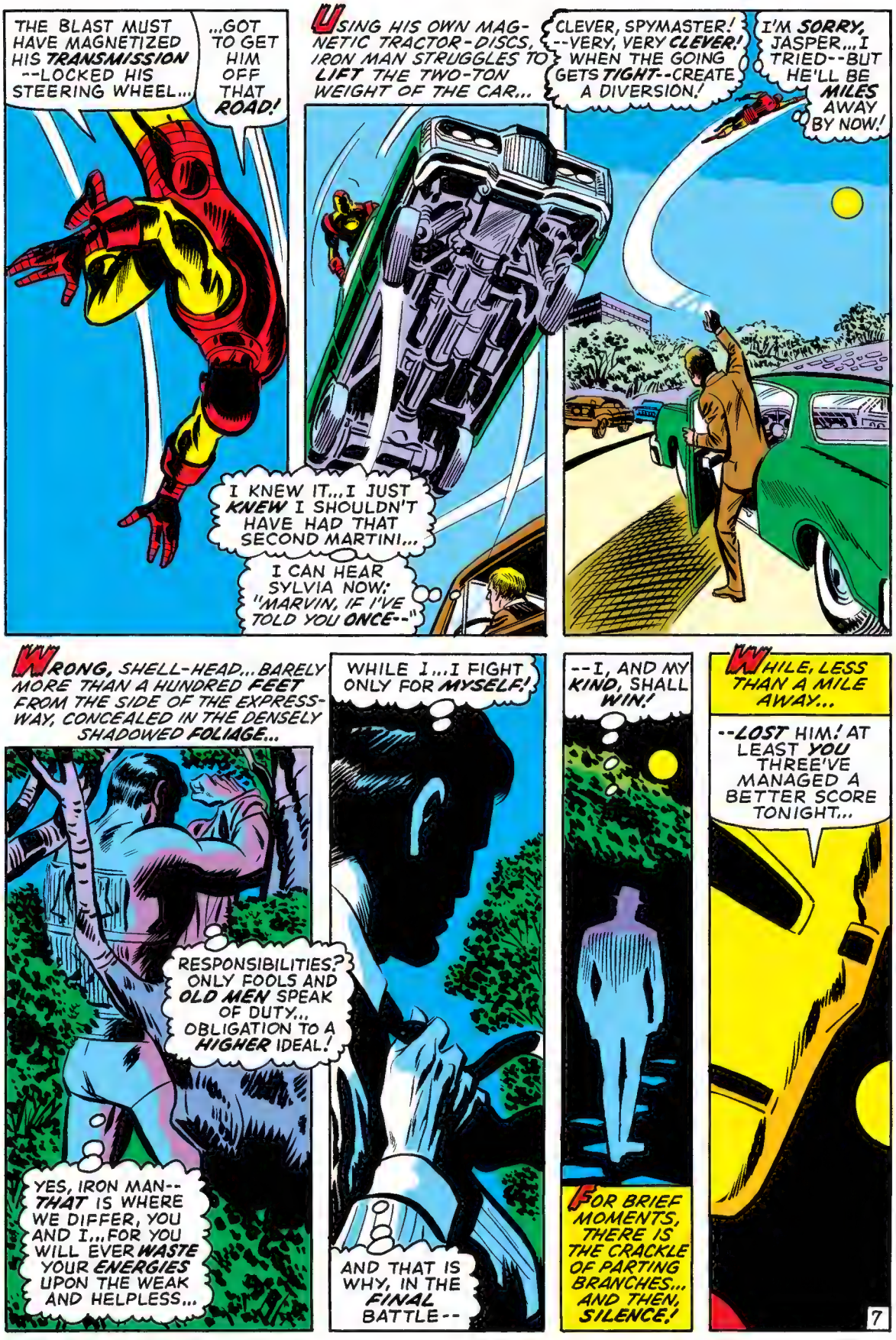
IN CASE YOU THOUGHT WE'D FORGOTTEN WHAT THE **NAME** OF THIS MAG IS, BELIEVERS, WE'LL SHIFT OUR **FOCUS** TO THE DARKENING TWILIGHT SKY OVER THE SPRAWLING COMPLEX OF **STARK INDUSTRIES**, WHERE TWO DIM FORMS STREAK SCARLET AND GOLD AGAINST THE **BLUE**...




I'D THOUGHT TO LEAVE YOU BEHIND, YOU ARMORED FOOL!
ZZZT!
HAVE YOU NOT REALIZED BY NOW THE FUTILITY OF YOUR ATTEMPTS AT VENGEANCE?


MAYBE THAT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN YOUR KIND AND MINE, SPYMASTER...
I DON'T QUIT!
I DON'T DUCK RESPONSIBILITIES ...LIKE ONE I'VE GOT TO JASPER SITWELL...




THE BLAST MUST HAVE MAGNETIZED HIS TRANSMISSION --LOCKED HIS STEERING WHEEL...
...GOT TO GET HIM OFF THAT ROAD!
USING HIS OWN MAGNETIC TRACTOR-DISCS, IRON MAN STRUGGLES TO LIFT THE TWO-TON WEIGHT OF THE CAR...
I KNEW IT..,I JUST KNEW I SHOULDN'T HAVE HAD THAT SECOND MARTINI...
I CAN HEAR SYLVIA NOW: "MARVIN, IF I'VE TOLD YOU ONCE--"
CLEVER, SPYMASTER! --VERY, VERY CLEVER! WHEN THE GOING GETS TIGHT--CREATE A DIVERSION!
I'M SORRY, JASPER...I TRIED--BUT HE'LL BE MILES AWAY BY NOW!
WRONG, SHELL-HEAD...BARELY MORE THAN A HUNDRED FEET FROM THE SIDE OF THE EXPRESSWAY, CONCEALED IN THE DENSELY SHADOWED FOLIAGE...
RESPONSIBILITIES? ONLY FOOLS AND OLD MEN SPEAK OF DUTY... OBLIGATION TO A HIGHER IDEAL!
YES, IRON MAN--THAT IS WHERE WE DIFFER, YOU AND I...FOR YOU WILL EVER WASTE YOUR ENERGIES UPON THE WEAK AND HELPLESS...
WHILE I...I FIGHT ONLY FOR MYSELF!
AND THAT IS WHY, IN THE FINAL BATTLE--
--I, AND MY KIND, SHALL WIN!
FOR BRIEF MOMENTS, THERE IS THE CRACKLE OF PARTING BRANCHES... AND THEN, SILENCE!
WHILE, LESS THAN A MILE AWAY...
--LOST HIM! AT LEAST YOU THREE'VE MANAGED A BETTER SCORE TONIGHT...
7

BLAST IT! SOMETIMES IT ALL SEEMS SO POINTLESS... YOU TRADE ONE GOOD FOR AN EVIL--
--THE LIFE OF AN INNOCENT FOR THE LIFE OF A KILLER!
DON'T KNOCK YOURSELF, PAL. IT'S THE DECISION TO MAKE THAT TRADE WHICH MATTERS...
...AND IT'S A DECISION WE EACH MAKE... EVERY DAY!
WELL SAID, FURY!
BEFORE YOU LAUNCH ANY MORE POLEMICS--IS THERE A CHANCE OF A LIFT?
TO MANHATTAN? BE MY GUEST, DD!
DON'T THINK OUR PRISONERS WILL MIND... DON'T CARE, EITHER!
CLEAVING THE CURRENTS OF NIGHT ON SILVER WINGS, THE S.H.I.E.L.D. HELICOPTER DEPARTS...
IRON MAN... WAIT-- PLEASE, WAIT!
I NEED...YOUR ADVICE! PERHAPS WE BOTH MAY HIDE OUR EMOTIONS BEHIND THESE GOLDEN MASKS...
...BUT NOW MY MASK MUST BE LIFTED!
HOW CAN I HELP?
YOU KNOW BOTH THE MEN OF MY LIFE... TONY STARK, YOUR EMPLOYER, AND JASPER SITWELL, YOUR COLLEAGUE...
THOUGH TONY WAS THE FIRST TO LOVE ME AFTER MY DISFIGUREMENT, I FIND, NOW--
--THAT IT IS JASPER WHO STILL HOLDS MY HEART!
WHAT CAN I DO? TONY IS DEAR TO ME, AND YET--
--AND YET, IT'S STILL SITWELL! SORRY, MADAME MASQUE--I'M NOT UP TO PLAYING DEAR ABBIE TONIGHT...
IT'S YOUR PROBLEM AND YOUR DECISION!
LEAVE ME OUT OF IT...
...JUST DO THAT! CUT ME LOOSE!
8

DARE-DEVIL
15¢
74
MAR
DAREDEVIL
THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
MARVEL COMICS GROUP
FOGGY-- YOU'VE GOT TO HELP ME!
THE WHOLE CITY'S GONE BLIND!
69 SHORE RO
WHAT DID YOU SAY? WHERE ARE YOU, MASKED MAN?
I--I CAN'T SEE!!

DAREDEVIL, THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR!™

IN THE COUNTRY OF THE BLIND!
MORNING... THE QUIET SOUNDS OF A CITY AWAKENING... THE RATTLE OF GARBAGE CANS, THE HARSH BLARE OF CAR-HORNS ... INTO THIS, THE SUDDEN CLATTER OF RUNNING FEET, AND OUR STORY BEGINS...
REAL EASY, HUH, CRACKERS? A SNAP JOB, YOU SAID..
SO WHAT'S ONE COSTUMED CLOWN, SHORTS? DEAD, IS WHAT!
I'M NOT ONE TO DISAGREE WITH THE LOCALS, FELLAS..
460Z
STAN LEE EDITOR
GERRY CONWAY WRITER
GENE COLAN ARTIST
SYD SHORES INKER
SAM ROSEN LETTERER

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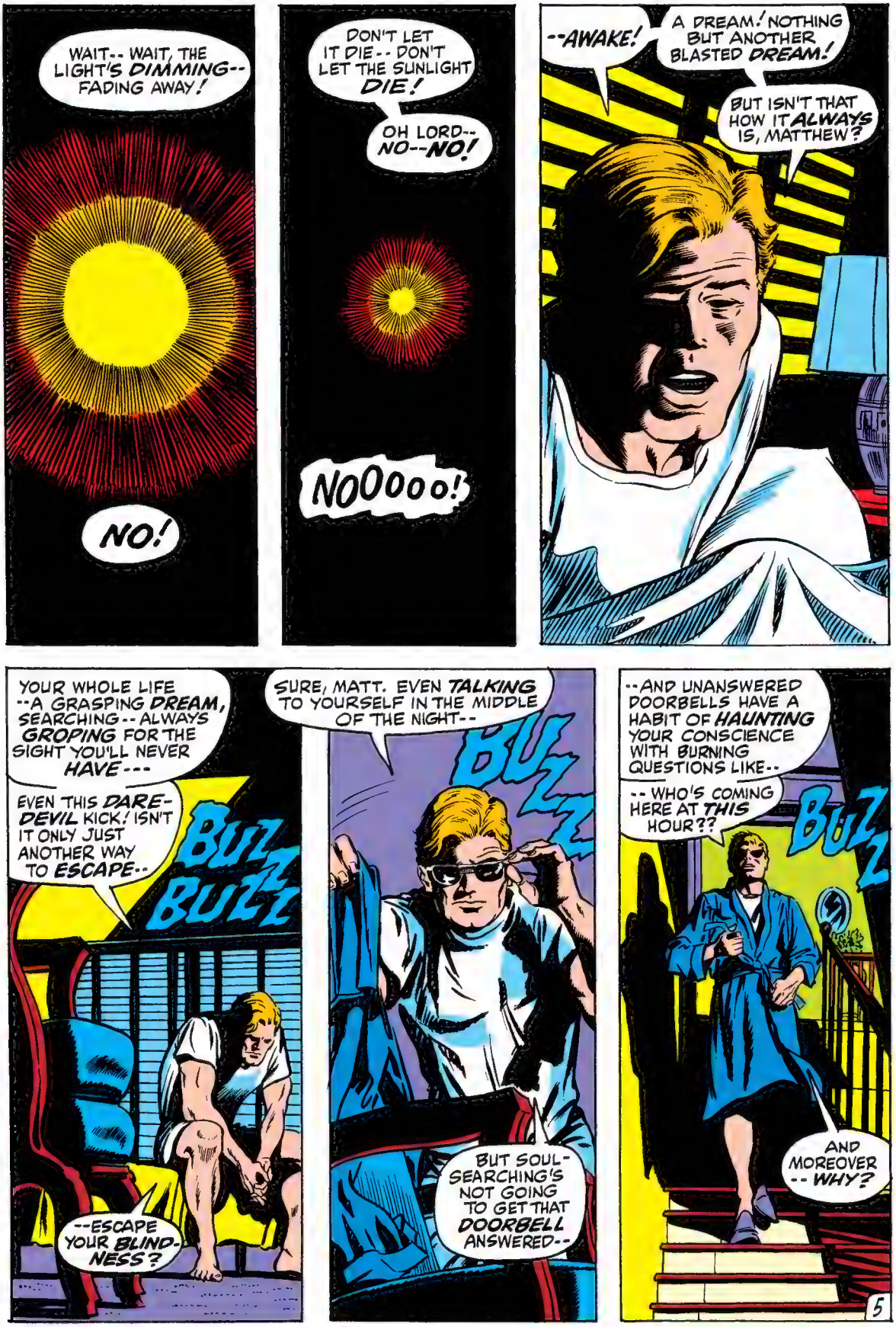
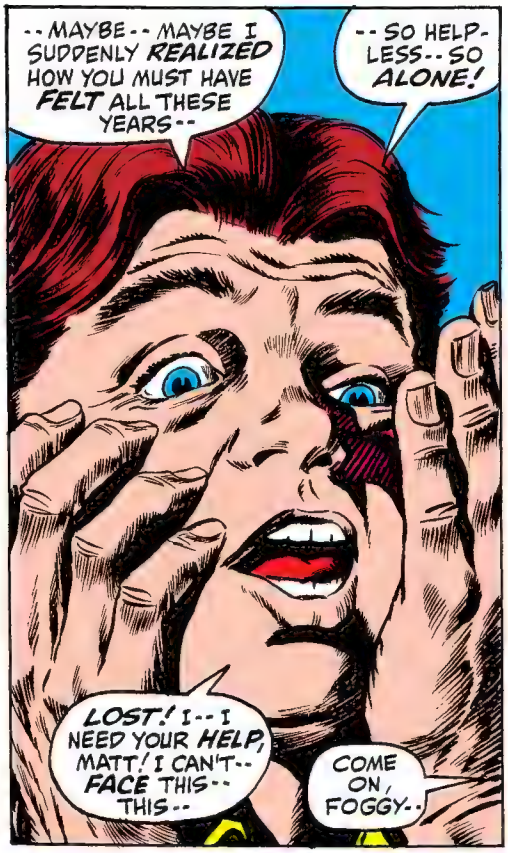
-- BUT THIS IS MY TERRITORY!
THIS IS WHERE I DO MY CRIME-BUSTING THING--
AND THIS IS WHERE YOU GUYS GET OFF!
WHAM!
WHOMP!
AAAWWK!
NOT SO, MY FRIEND! IN THIS GAME, AT THIS TIME -- WE HOLD ALL THE CARDS--
AND IN THIS READING -- YOUR CARD IS DEATH!
KRAK!
THAT'S RIGHT, PAL -- KEEP TALKING OUT YOUR MOVES! YOU REALLY SCARE ME THAT WAY!
AND WHILE I'M BUSY SHAKING -- I'M DUCKING!
BOSS -- BOSS YOU GOTTA DO SOMETHIN! -- HE'S LIKE A WILD MAN!
2

EEEYOWW!
WHUMP!
THERE'S A LOT IN WHAT YOU SAY!
SHORTS -- CRACKERS -- DON'T LET HIM --
-- GET AWAY? WOULDN'T DREAM OF IT, BOSS! NOT JUS' WHEN WE'RE GETTIN' SO SNUGGLY AND CLOSE, HUH, MASKED MAN?
WHAT'SA MATTER? AT A LOSS FOR WORDS, TOUGH GUY?
THAT'S IT, CRACKERS -- JUST HOLD HIM THAT WAY!
WRONG, CRACKERS -- I'M AFRAID I DON'T SEE IT YOUR WAY AT ALL!
CRAAK!
THWONK!
NOT--
--AT--
ALL!
THERE! SEE HOW MUCH NICER A PICTURE IT MAKES FROM MY POINT OF VIEW?
3.

WHAT? NO COMMENTS? NOW HOW'S A LAD EVER GONNA LEARN IF NOBODY EVER--
HOWZAT, DAREDEVIL? BET EVERYTHING'S A WHOLE LOT CLEARER NOW!
A WHOLE LOT!
THUNK!
UUNNHH!
AND THE MORNING STILLNESS RETURNS-- BROKEN ONLY BY THE DYING CLATTER--OF RUNNING FEET...
THEN-- YET ANOTHER TWIST FOLDS IN THE WEB OF THE FATES, AS---
SUNLIGHT-- SOFT-- SO SOFT--
MY EYES--
MY EYES!
THE LIGHT-- GOOD LORD, I CAN SEE THE LIGHT! I CAN SEE!
4

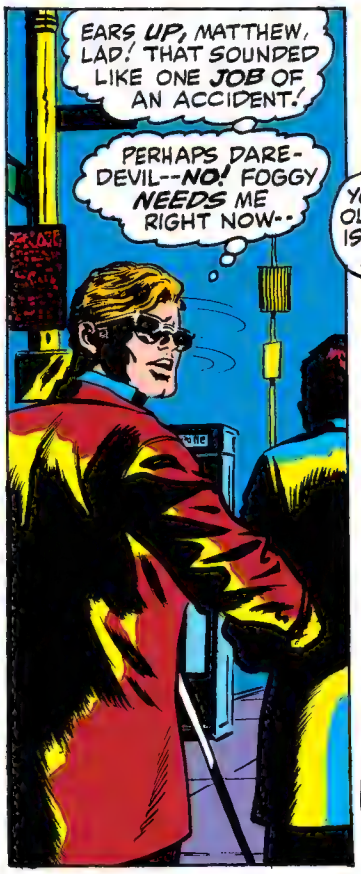

WAIT-- WAIT, THE LIGHT'S DIMMING-- FADING AWAY!
NO!
DON'T LET IT DIE-- DON'T LET THE SUNLIGHT DIE!
OH LORD-- NO--NO!
NOOOOO!
--AWAKE!
A DREAM! NOTHING BUT ANOTHER BLASTED DREAM!
BUT ISN'T THAT HOW IT ALWAYS IS, MATTHEW?
YOUR WHOLE LIFE --A GRASPING DREAM, SEARCHING-- ALWAYS GROPING FOR THE SIGHT YOU'LL NEVER HAVE---
EVEN THIS DARE-DEVIL KICK! ISN'T IT ONLY JUST ANOTHER WAY TO ESCAPE--
BUZZ BUZZ
--ESCAPE YOUR BLIND-NESS?
SURE, MATT. EVEN TALKING TO YOURSELF IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT--
BUZZ
BUT SOUL-SEARCHING'S NOT GOING TO GET THAT DOORBELL ANSWERED--
--AND UNANSWERED DOORBELLS HAVE A HABIT OF HAUNTING YOUR CONSCIENCE WITH BURNING QUESTIONS LIKE--
-- WHO'S COMING HERE AT THIS HOUR??
BUZZ
AND MOREOVER -- WHY?
5

MATT? IS IT YOU? PLEASE-- COULD I--COULD I COME IN?
FOGGY? WHAT'S THE D.A. DOING UP AND AT MY DOOR?
OF COURSE -- COME IN!
WHAT'S THIS "IS IT YOU?" ROUTINE? WE'VE BEEN FRIENDS FOR YEARS! I SHOULD THINK---
I KNOW, I KNOW! YOU'VE GOT TO--- OWW!
WHAT'S WRONG???
WHAT'S WRONG? MATT--YOU'VE GOT TO HELP ME! I'M BLIND! I--I CAN'T SEE!
WHAT? HOW??
I--I WAS ON MY WAY HERE--TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT THE JENNINGS CASE! THE LIGHTS--EVERYTHING STARTED GETTING DIMMER---
I--I THOUGHT I WAS JUST TIRED --BUT IT GOT WORSE!
SUDDENLY-- EVERYTHING WAS DARK!
BLIND!
TAKE IT EASY. DON'T WORK YOURSELF UP. THERE'S GOT TO BE AN EXPLANATION--
SURE, MATT-- WE BOTH KNOW WHAT THAT EXPLANATION IS. I DON'T KNOW WHY I CAME HERE---

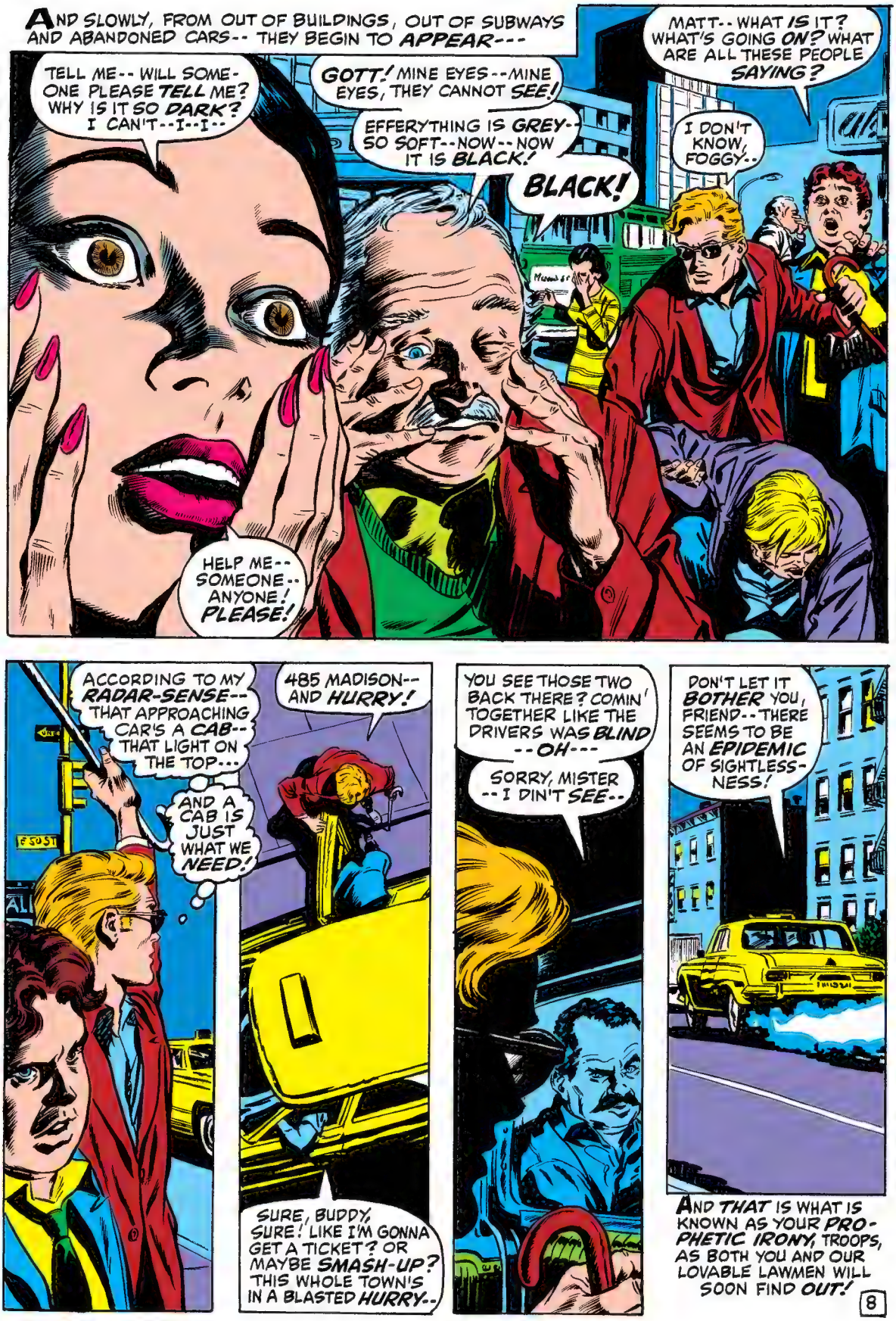

--MAYBE--MAYBE I SUDDENLY REALIZED HOW YOU MUST HAVE FELT ALL THESE YEARS--
--SO HELPLESS--SO ALONE!
LOST! I--I NEED YOUR HELP, MATT! I CAN'T--FACE THIS--THIS--
COME ON, FOGGY--

THIS IS UNREAL! EVERYTHING WE WERE TO EACH OTHER IS REVERSED! NOW I'M GUIDING HIM DOWN A STREET---
WHAT'S HAPPENED TO HIM? TO US? WE'VE DRIFTED SO FAR APART THESE PAST FEW MONTHS --WHAT WITH MY TROUBLES WITH KAREN--
--AND HIS JOB AS AS DISTRICT ATTORNEY! WHATEVER HAPPENED TO THE TEAM OF NELSON AND MURDOCK--- ATTORNEYS AT LAW?

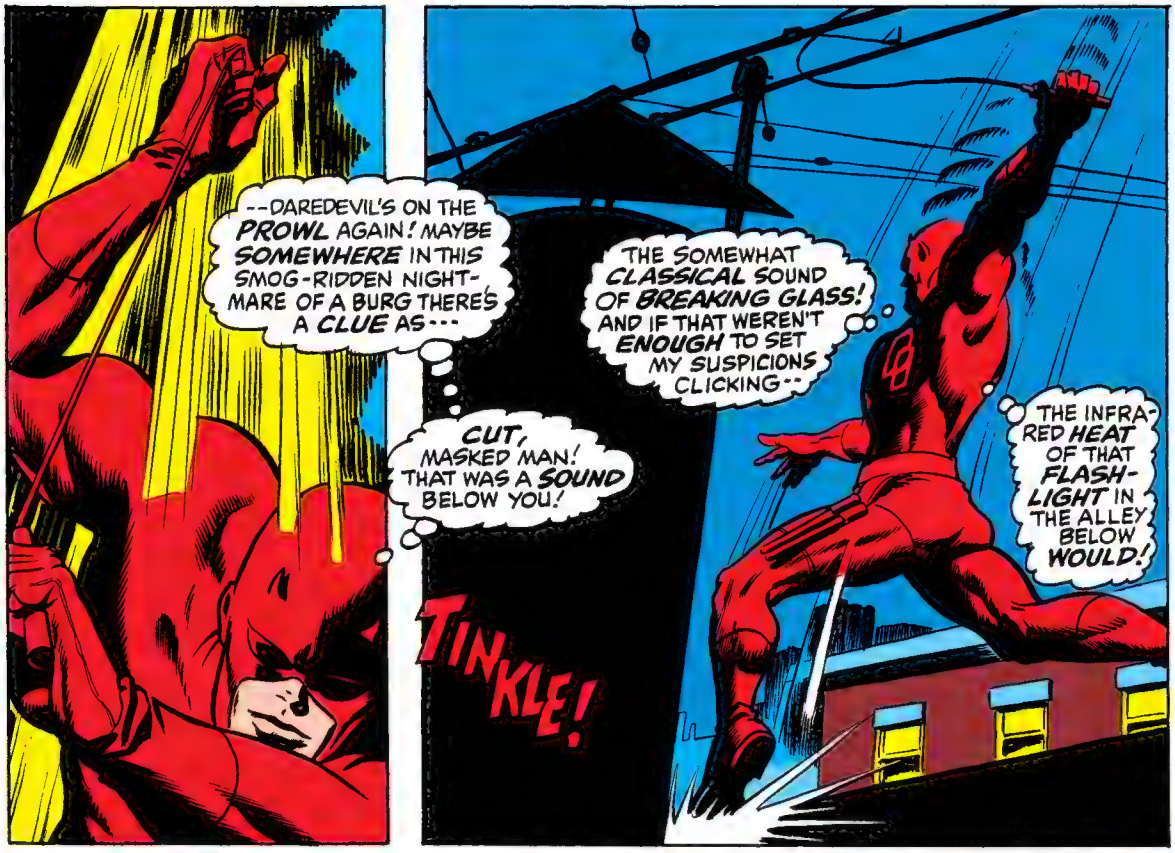
DON'T GET TOO CAUGHT UP IN NOSTALGIA, MATTHEW! NEW TROUBLE'S RIGHT AROUND THE CORNER--
WHAM
MY GOD--MY GOD! MY EYES--!
SCRREE

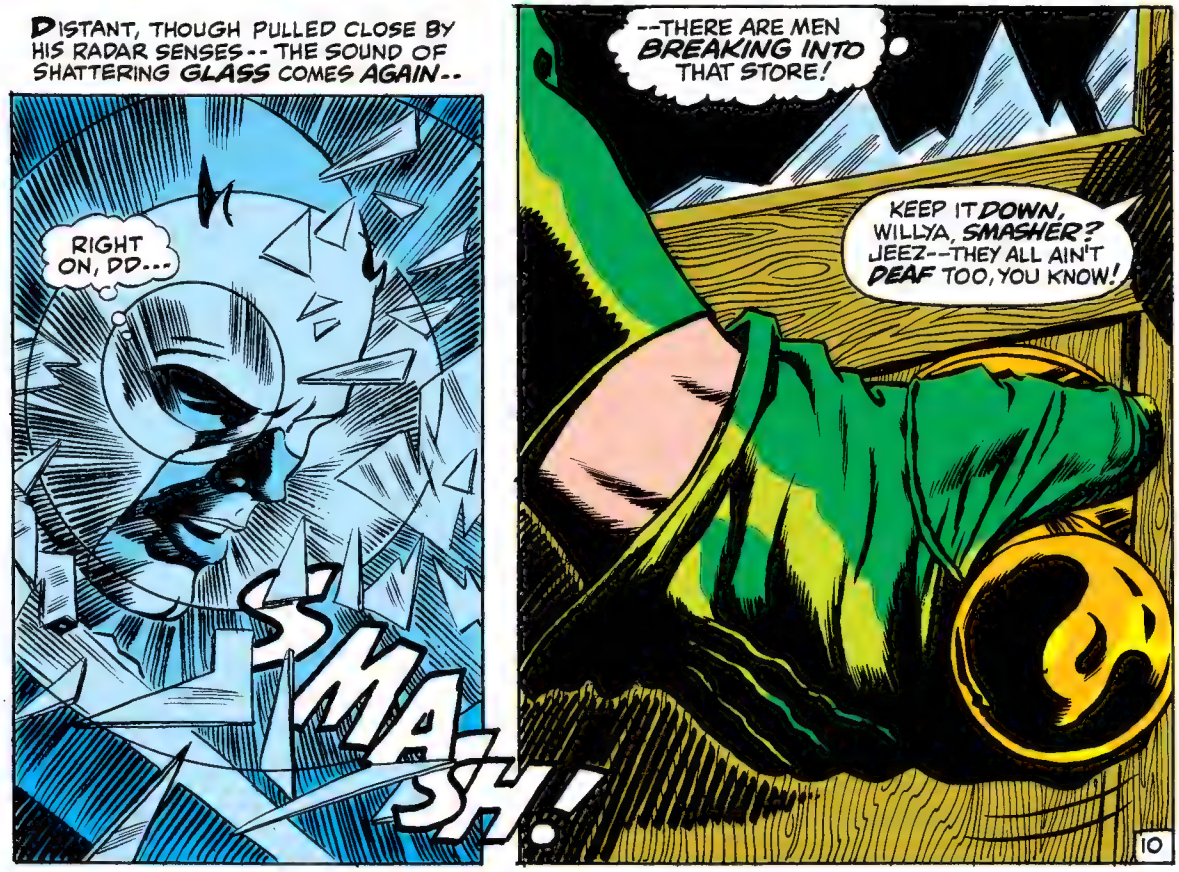

EARS UP, MATTHEW, LAD! THAT SOUNDED LIKE ONE JOB OF AN ACCIDENT!
PERHAPS DARE-DEVIL--NO! FOGGY NEEDS ME RIGHT NOW--

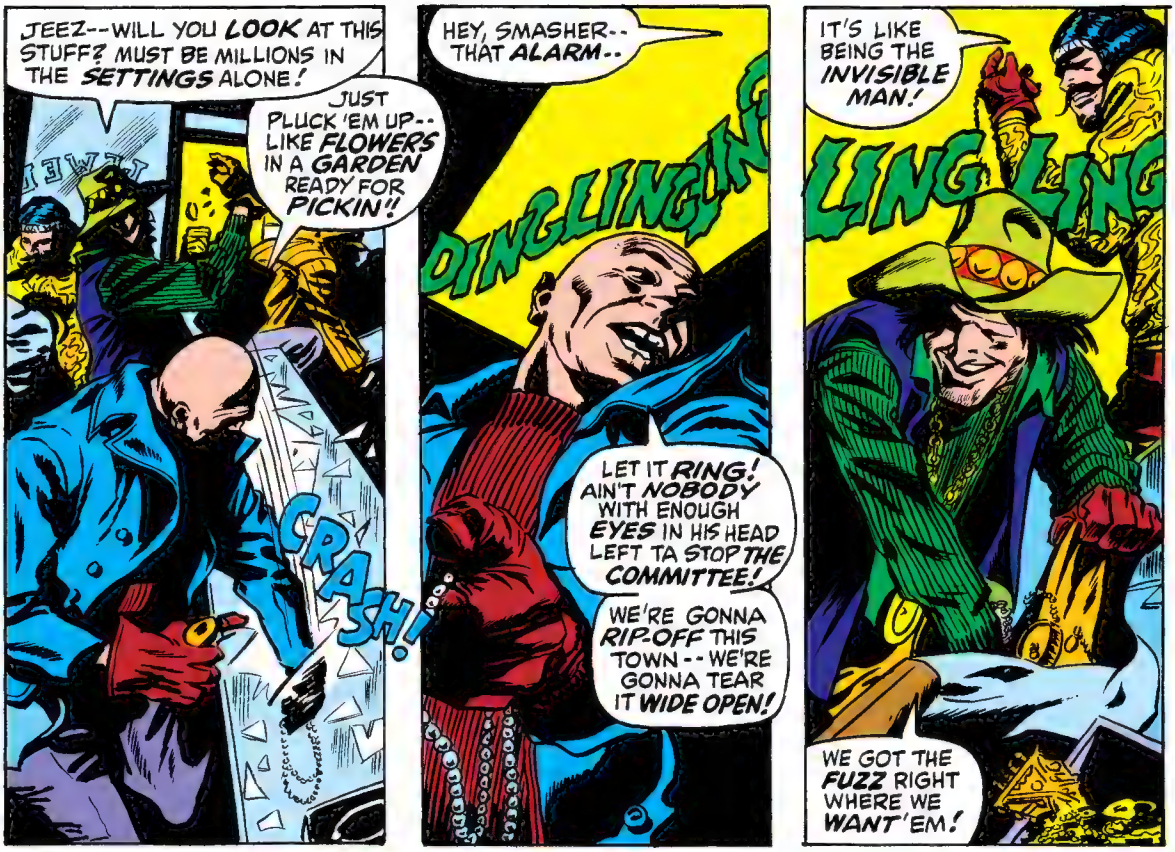
MATT? MATT--WHAT'S GOING ON?
YOUR GUESS, OLD FRIEND, IS AS GOOD AS MINE!
SOMEBODY --SOMEBODY GIVE ME A HAND--
:OOF!:

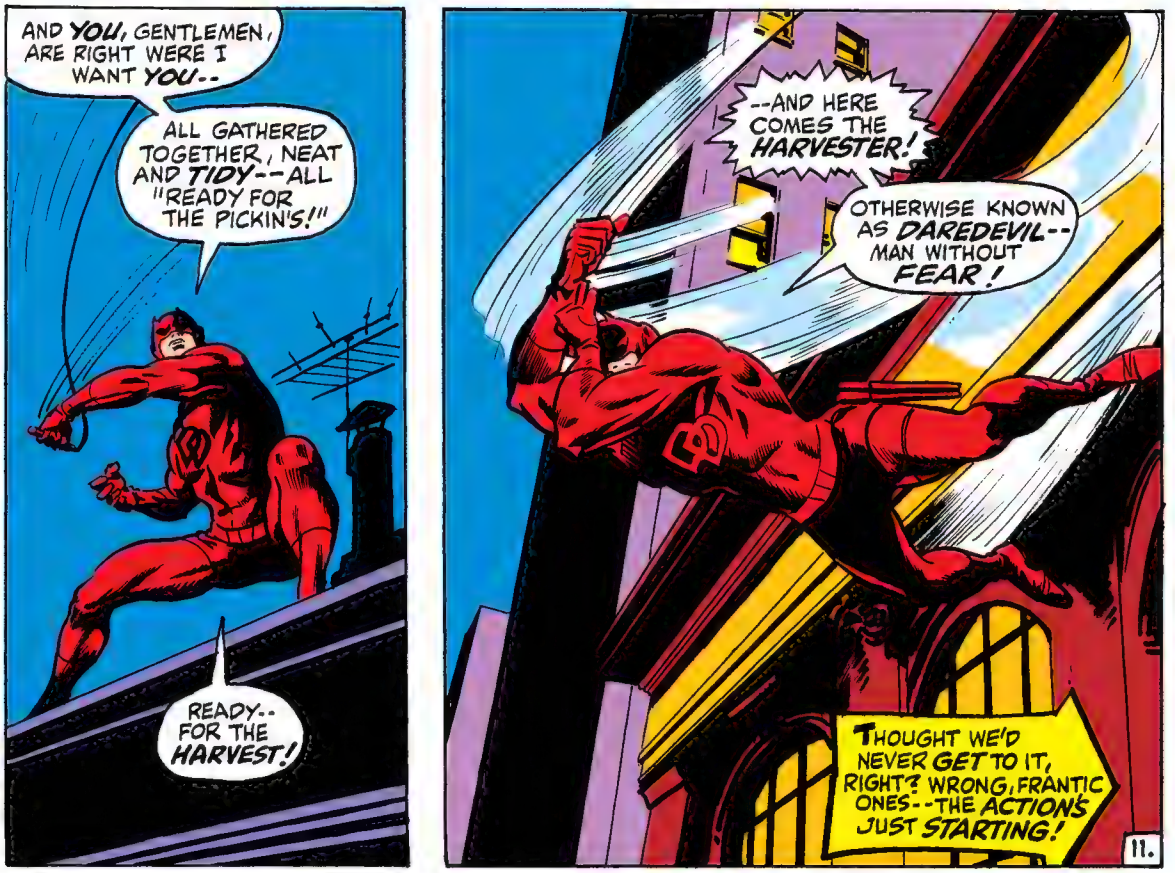

AND SLOWLY, FROM OUT OF BUILDINGS, OUT OF SUBWAYS AND ABANDONED CARS-- THEY BEGIN TO APPEAR---
TELL ME-- WILL SOMEONE PLEASE TELL ME? WHY IS IT SO DARK? I CAN'T--I--I--
GOTT! MINE EYES--MINE EYES, THEY CANNOT SEE!
EFFERYTHING IS GREY-- SO SOFT--NOW--NOW IT IS BLACK!
BLACK!
MATT-- WHAT IS IT? WHAT'S GOING ON? WHAT ARE ALL THESE PEOPLE SAYING?
I DON'T KNOW, FOGGY--
HELP ME-- SOMEONE-- ANYONE! PLEASE!
ACCORDING TO MY RADAR-SENSE-- THAT APPROACHING CAR'S A CAB-- THAT LIGHT ON THE TOP---
AND A CAB IS JUST WHAT WE NEED!
485 MADISON-- AND HURRY!
SURE, BUDDY, SURE! LIKE I'M GONNA GET A TICKET? OR MAYBE SMASH-UP? THIS WHOLE TOWN'S IN A BLASTED HURRY--
YOU SEE THOSE TWO BACK THERE? COMIN' TOGETHER LIKE THE DRIVERS WAS BLIND --OH---
SORRY, MISTER --I DIN'T SEE--
DON'T LET IT BOTHER YOU, FRIEND-- THERE SEEMS TO BE AN EPIDEMIC OF SIGHTLESSNESS!
AND THAT IS WHAT IS KNOWN AS YOUR PROPHETIC IRONY, TROOPS, AS BOTH YOU AND OUR LOVABLE LAWMEN WILL SOON FIND OUT!

SHORTLY AFTER, IN THE OFFICES OF ONE JASON CARRINGTON, MATTHEW'S OPHTHAMOLOGIST...
CAN'T FIGURE IT, MATT. IT ALMOST SEEMS TO BE PSYCHO-LOGICAL-- SOME SORT OF NERVOUS DISRUPTION---
HOW DO YOU MEAN?
I'VE NEVER ENCOUNTERED ANYTHING LIKE IT!
SOMETHING'S IRRITATED THE MUSCLES AROUND THE PUPIL-- CAUSING THE IRIS TO CONTRACT---
DZLCO
OTFUYA
--RESULTING IN BLINDNESS! BUT WHAT-- AND HOW---
FRANKLY, I'M LOST!
PERHAPS HE'S BEEN UNDER A STRAIN. IT HAPPENS--- BUT NOT TO THIS EXTENT--
QUIET. ANY ADDITIONAL SHOCK MIGHT CAUSE FURTHER DAMAGE TO THE EYE TISSUES--
AH, MR. NELSON, I WOULDN'T LET THIS LITTLE --AH, DIFFICULTY UPSET ME-- EVERYTHING WILL BE FINE IN JUST A FEW DAYS---
MR. MURDOCK WILL TAKE YOU HOME-- I RECOMMEND REST AND PLENTY OF DARK-NESS TO RELAX YOUR EYES---
THANKS, DOCTOR-- I EXPECT QUITE A BIT OF DARKNESS--
SOON, AT FOGGY'S APARTMENT ---
THANKS, MATT. YOU'VE --BEEN A GREAT HELP. I---
FORGET IT, FOGGY. JUST GET THAT REST--
--WHILE OL' DD TAKES TO THE SKYWAYS!
DOC CARRINGTON MAY BE ONE OF THE WORLD'S FOREMOST EYE-MEN-- BUT WHEN IT COMES TO PERCEP-TION, HE RANKS ZERO!
WHATEVER'S WRONG WITH FOGGY, IS WRONG WITH NOT A FEW MANHATTANITES---
--AND THEY CAN'T ALL BE SUFFERING FROM A BAD CASE OF NERVOUS TWITCH! SOOO--
9


--DAREDEVIL'S ON THE PROWL AGAIN! MAYBE SOMEWHERE IN THIS SMOG-RIDDEN NIGHTMARE OF A BURG THERE'S A CLUE AS---
CUT, MASKED MAN! THAT WAS A SOUND BELOW YOU!
TINKLE!
THE SOMEWHAT CLASSICAL SOUND OF BREAKING GLASS! AND IF THAT WEREN'T ENOUGH TO SET MY SUSPICIONS CLICKING--
THE INFRA-RED HEAT OF THAT FLASH-LIGHT IN THE ALLEY BELOW WOULD!

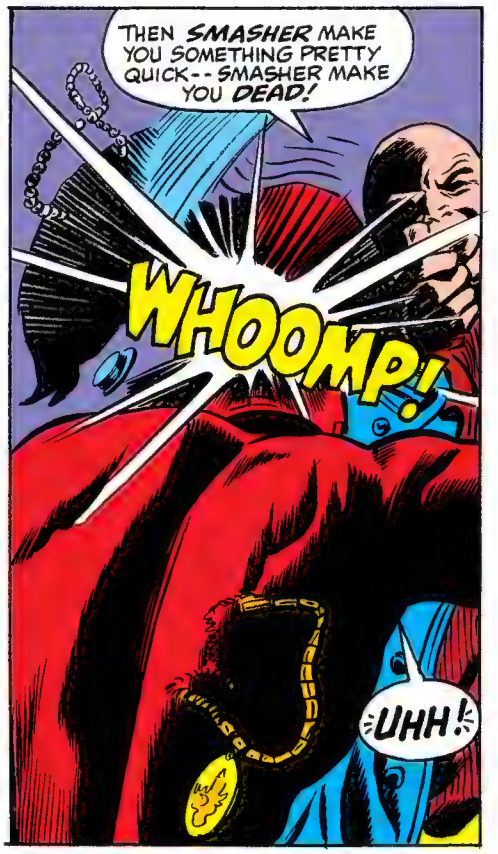

DISTANT, THOUGH PULLED CLOSE BY HIS RADAR SENSES-- THE SOUND OF SHATTERING GLASS COMES AGAIN--
RIGHT ON, DD---
SMA-SH!
--THERE ARE MEN BREAKING INTO THAT STORE!
KEEP IT DOWN, WILLYA, SMASHER? JEEZ--THEY ALL AIN'T DEAF TOO, YOU KNOW!

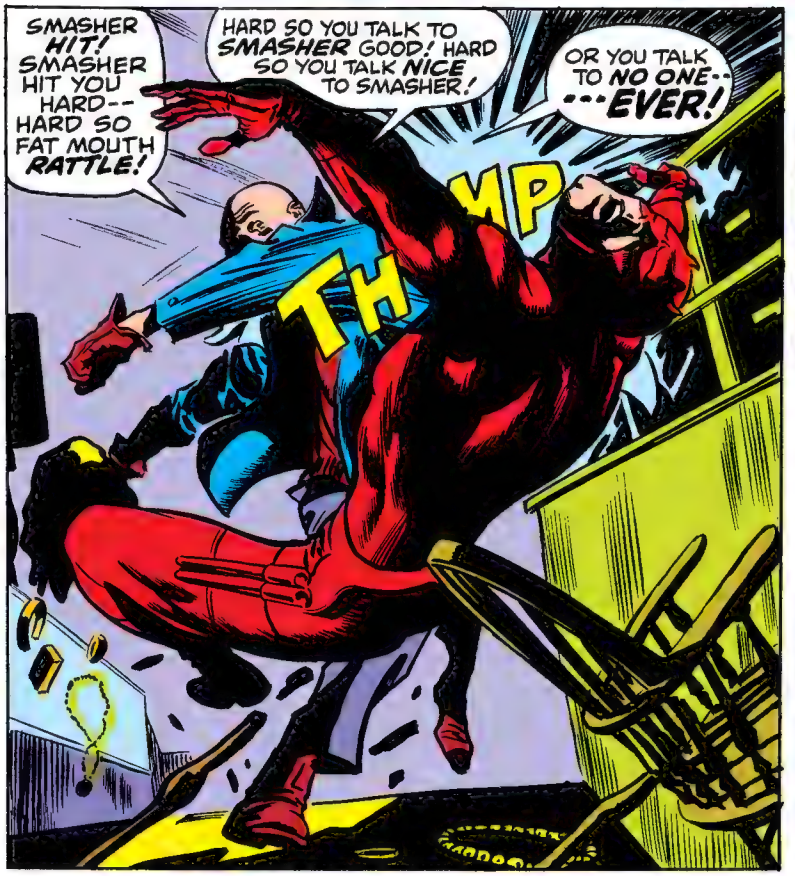

JEEZ--WILL YOU LOOK AT THIS STUFF? MUST BE MILLIONS IN THE SETTINGS ALONE!
JUST PLUCK 'EM UP--LIKE FLOWERS IN A GARDEN READY FOR PICKIN'!
CRASH!
HEY, SMASHER--THAT ALARM--
DINGLING!
LET IT RING! AIN'T NOBODY WITH ENOUGH EYES IN HIS HEAD LEFT TA STOP THE COMMITTEE!
WE'RE GONNA RIP-OFF THIS TOWN--WE'RE GONNA TEAR IT WIDE OPEN!
IT'S LIKE BEING THE INVISIBLE MAN!
LING LING
WE GOT THE FUZZ RIGHT WHERE WE WANT 'EM!


AND YOU, GENTLEMEN, ARE RIGHT WERE I WANT YOU--
ALL GATHERED TOGETHER, NEAT AND TIDY--ALL "READY FOR THE PICKIN'S!"
READY--FOR THE HARVEST!
--AND HERE COMES THE HARVESTER!
OTHERWISE KNOWN AS DAREDEVIL--MAN WITHOUT FEAR!
THOUGHT WE'D NEVER GET TO IT, RIGHT? WRONG, FRANTIC ONES--THE ACTION'S JUST STARTING!
11.

HOPE YOU DON'T MIND MY BUSTING UP THIS LITTLE GET-TOGETHER!
I'VE BEEN ITCHING FOR A SMALL BRAWL ALL NIGHT! MAYBE IT'S KINDA UNFAIR OF ME TO TAKE IT OUT ON ALL OF YOU GUYS--
--BUT WHAT WITH YOU ROBBING THE STORE AND ALL---
--WELL, I KIND OF HOPE YOU'LL UNDERSTAND!
NOTHING PERSONAL IN THIS--ITS JUST MY NATURAL HOSTILITY!
WHAM!
UUUNNGH!

THINK YOU'RE PRETTY COOL, HUH, LAWMAN? WELL, YOU AIN'T NOTHIN' TO SMASHER!
BIG CLUE, BROTHER-- YOU AIN'T NOTHING TO ME!


THEN SMASHER MAKE YOU SOMETHING PRETTY QUICK-- SMASHER MAKE YOU DEAD!
WHOOMP!
UHH!

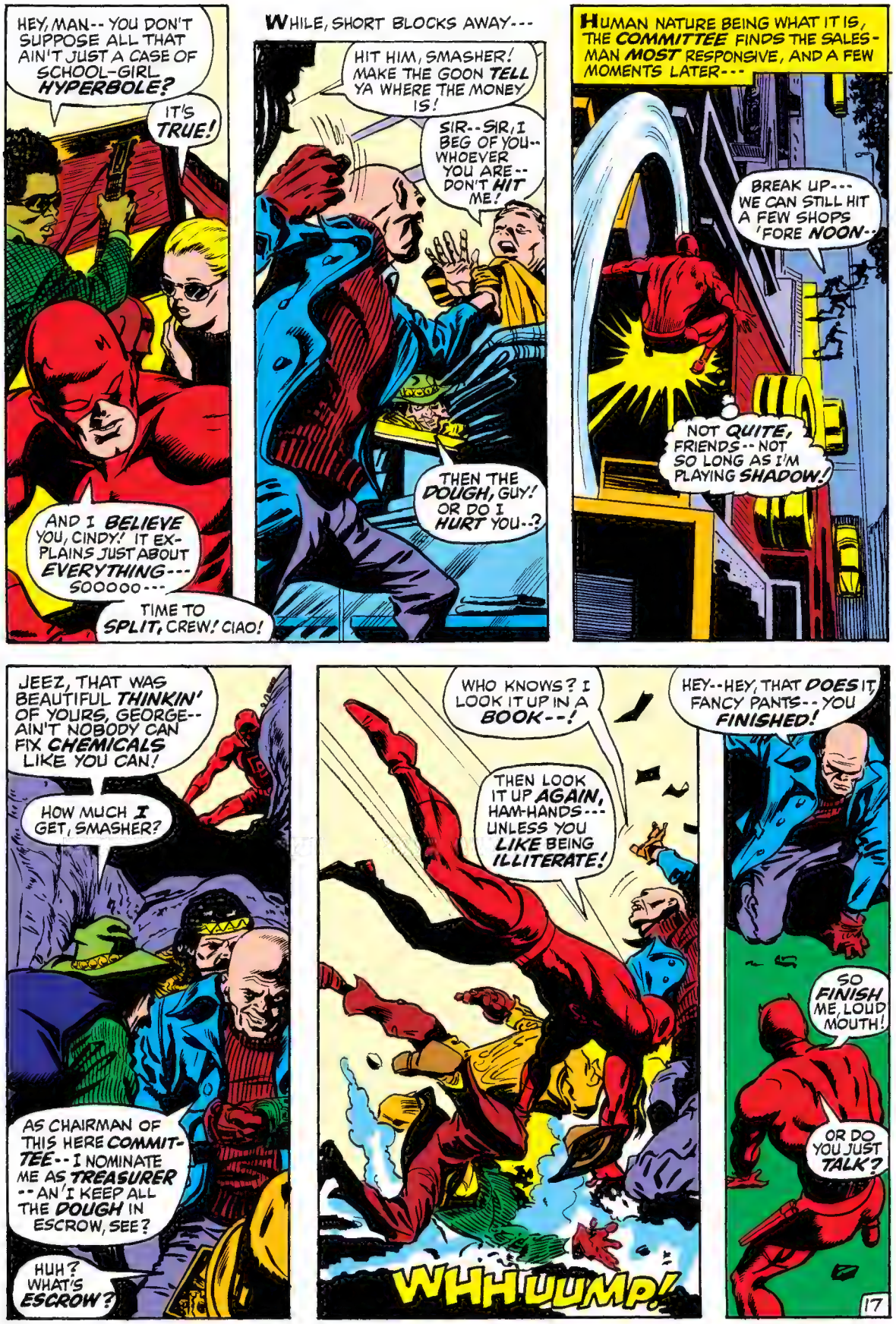

SMASHER HIT! SMASHER HIT YOU HARD-- HARD SO FAT MOUTH RATTLE!
HARD SO YOU TALK TO SMASHER GOOD! HARD SO YOU TALK NICE TO SMASHER!
OR YOU TALK TO NO ONE-- ...EVER!
TH
MP

WHAT'SA' MATTER, LAWMAN? NOT TALK SO GOOD NOW, HUH?
MAYBE SMASHER SOME-THIN' TO YOU NOW, HUH?

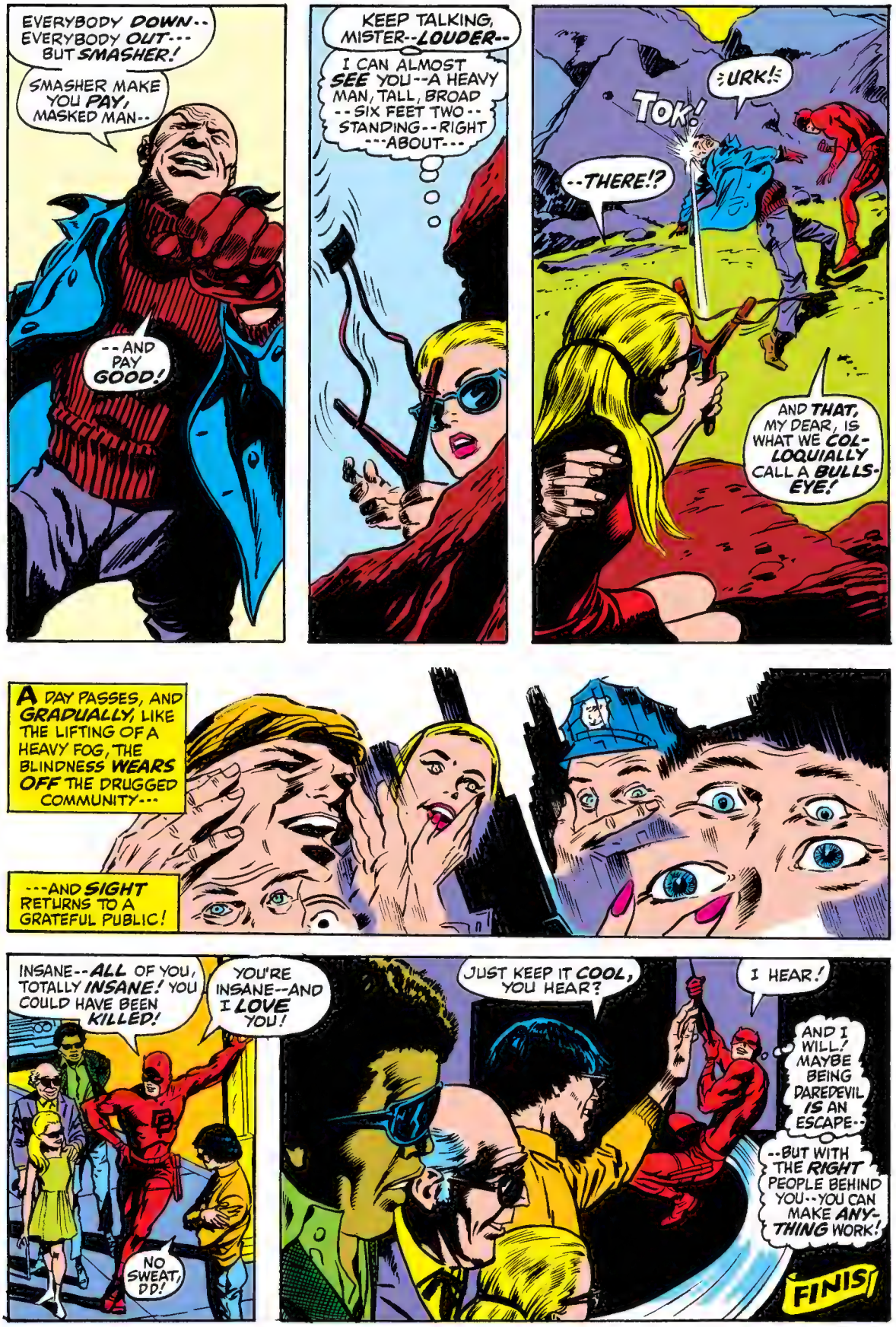
JEEZ, YOU REALLY MESSED HIM GOOD, SMASHER! WE'RE JUS' GONNA FINISH HIM A LITTLE!
YEAH--MAKE 'IS BONES STAND OUT ALL AT FUNNY ANGLES!
DON'T--BET--TOO SOON, CRUMBS...
JUS' TRY IT, FRIEND--MAYBE WE'LL MAKE IT QUICKER IF YOU SORTA LIE STILL--
HIT 'EM WITH THE STICK, GEORGE!
SORRY, GANG, BUT PLAYING PUNCHING BAG JUST ISN'T MY THING!
SMASHER--!
YEAH! HE DON'T LEARN GOOD, DO HE?
MAYBE THIS'LL FIX HIS HEAD A LITTLE!
MAYBE IT'LL FIX HIM REAL GOOD!
CRASSSH!
THUNK!!
NO MORE TROUBLE FROM SLEEPING BEAUTY! WE'VE GOT ENOUGH ICE---LET'S BEAT IT!
MORNING--AND THE SOUND OF RUNNING FEET--
AND THEN--- SILENCE.
14

HEY-- HEY, MAN? YOU'RE REALLY HURT!
I---
COOL IT. DON'T TRY TO TALK-- JUS' LEAN ON ME, MAN. JUS' LEAN ON OL' SLATE!
WE'VE GOT A WAYS TO GO---
WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING? EVERYWHERE I GO, I HEAR SOUNDS OF PEOPLE CRYING-- PEOPLE SCREAMING!
LIKE-- LIKE EVERY-ONE'S GONE BLIND--- AS BLIND AS ME!
NOW WHAT? I CAN HEAR THE SOUNDS OF SOME SORT OF RADIO DISPATCHER--- BUT HE'S HYSTERICAL-- WITH FEAR!
IT'S THE PRECINCT-- BUT WHAT'S GOING ON?
SOMEBODY BETTER CLUE ME IN-- AND FAST! AM I GOING NUTS-- OR WHAT?
'FRAID IT'S NOT AS SIMPLE AS THAT, SON---
---SOMEHOW, EVERY LAST MAN, WOMAN AND CHILD IN THIS CITY HAS GONE BLIND---
'CEPTING US, AND THE OTHERS WHO'VE ALREADY LOST THEIR SIGHT---
-AND EVIDENTLY YOU!
WE AIN'T GOT NO FURTHER TO GO!
15

FORGET IT, FRIEND. MEET THE REST OF OUR LITTLE "GROUP" --DOC TINKER, HERE --HE OWNS A PAWN SHOP IN THE VILLAGE---
'BEEN BLIND SINCE I WAS TWELVE-- HAD PLENTY O'TIME TO GET USED TO THE IDEA!
DOESN'T FRIGHTEN ME LIKE IT DOES THESE NEW FOLKS!
ME, I'M "DUTCH" POTTER. LOST THE PEEPS IN 'NAM-- LUCKY I HAD FRIENDS LIKE THESE THREE TO PULL MY HEAD TOGETHER!
OTHERWISE-- I'D HAVE GONE CRACKERS!
AND I'M CINDY-- BUT ALL OF THIS IS UNIMPORTANT! WE'VE GOT TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT THIS BLINDNESS EPIDEMIC---
GOOD THINKING--- BUT WHAT?
MAYBE-- MAYBE I HAVE A LEAD--
SPEAK UP, CHILD! LET EVERYONE HEAR YOU!
ALL RIGHT, TINKER! YOU SEE, I WORK NEAR THE CITY RESERVOIR IN CENTRAL PARK---
THERE WERE THESE TWO MEN -- ROUGH, AWE-FULLY ROUGH SOUNDING! I HID IN SOME BUSHES---
---AND I LISTENED!
JUST A DROP, JUST A DROP, EH? JEEZ-- --THINK OF IT-- THE WHOLE BLASTED BOTTLE!
JUS' LIKE THAT-- EIGHT MILLION PEOPLE--- BLINDER'N BATS!
RESERVOIR KEEP OUT


HEY, MAN-- YOU DON'T SUPPOSE ALL THAT AIN'T JUST A CASE OF SCHOOL-GIRL HYPERBOLE?
IT'S TRUE!
AND I BELIEVE YOU, CINDY! IT EXPLAINS JUST ABOUT EVERYTHING--- SOOOOO---
TIME TO SPLIT, CREW! CIAO!
WHILE, SHORT BLOCKS AWAY---
HIT HIM, SMASHER! MAKE THE GOON TELL YA WHERE THE MONEY IS!
SIR--SIR, I BEG OF YOU-- WHOEVER YOU ARE-- DON'T HIT ME!
THEN THE DOUGH, GUY! OR DO I HURT YOU--?
HUMAN NATURE BEING WHAT IT IS, THE COMMITTEE FINDS THE SALESMAN MOST RESPONSIVE, AND A FEW MOMENTS LATER---
BREAK UP--- WE CAN STILL HIT A FEW SHOPS 'FORE NOON--
NOT QUITE, FRIENDS-- NOT SO LONG AS I'M PLAYING SHADOW!
JEEZ, THAT WAS BEAUTIFUL THINKIN' OF YOURS, GEORGE-- AIN'T NOBODY CAN FIX CHEMICALS LIKE YOU CAN!
HOW MUCH I GET, SMASHER?
AS CHAIRMAN OF THIS HERE COMMITTEE-- I NOMINATE ME AS TREASURER --AN' I KEEP ALL THE DOUGH IN ESCROW, SEE?
HUH? WHAT'S ESCROW?
WHO KNOWS? I LOOK IT UP IN A BOOK--!
THEN LOOK IT UP AGAIN, HAM-HANDS--- UNLESS YOU LIKE BEING ILLITERATE!
WHHUUMP!
HEY--HEY, THAT DOES IT, FANCY PANTS-- YOU FINISHED!
SO FINISH ME, LOUD MOUTH!
OR DO YOU JUST TALK?
17

SMASHER DOESN'T TALK-- SMASHER PUNCH--AND HIT--AND-- HUH?
TOO HIGH AND TOO SLOW, FATS!
TRY TO AIM FOR THE SOLAR PLEXUS--- SO!
UMMPH!
THWOMP!
OR MAYBE THE CRANIAL CAVITY--AND IN YOUR CASE, I DO MEAN CAVITY!
KKRAK!
URK!
OOOPS-- DON'T FORGET THE REAR-GUARD, DD!
DON'T SWEAT IT, HERO MAN! THE REAR IS AMPLY FLANKED!
JEEZ--
--AND RE-FLANKED!
GUARD YOURSELF, FRIEND--!
AIN'T NO GUARDIN' GONNA BE NECESSARY-- ONCE YOU'RE FULLA BULLETS, BOY!
'FRAID THAT WOULD BE MOST UNSATISFACTORY, SON-- COULDN'T LET YOU DO IT!
TWONK!
18


EVERYBODY DOWN--
EVERYBODY OUT---
BUT SMASHER!
SMASHER MAKE YOU PAY, MASKED MAN--
--AND PAY GOOD!
KEEP TALKING, MISTER--LOUDER--
I CAN ALMOST SEE YOU--A HEAVY MAN, TALL, BROAD --SIX FEET TWO-- STANDING--RIGHT ---ABOUT---
TOK!
:URK!:
--THERE!?
AND THAT, MY DEAR, IS WHAT WE COL-LOQUIALLY CALL A BULLS-EYE!
A DAY PASSES, AND GRADUALLY, LIKE THE LIFTING OF A HEAVY FOG, THE BLINDNESS WEARS OFF THE DRUGGED COMMUNITY---
---AND SIGHT RETURNS TO A GRATEFUL PUBLIC!
INSANE--ALL OF YOU, TOTALLY INSANE! YOU COULD HAVE BEEN KILLED!
YOU'RE INSANE--AND I LOVE YOU!
NO SWEAT, DD!
JUST KEEP IT COOL, YOU HEAR?
I HEAR!
AND I WILL! MAYBE BEING DAREDEVIL IS AN ESCAPE--
--BUT WITH THE RIGHT PEOPLE BEHIND YOU--YOU CAN MAKE ANY-THING WORK!
FINIS

Cover from *Daredevil Annual* #2, February 1971
(reprinting *Daredevil* #10-11)

DAREDEVIL SPECIAL
25¢
2
FEB
TWICE AS MANY PAGES! TWICE AS MANY THRILLS!
MARVEL COMICS GROUP
KING-SIZE SPECIAL!
DAREDEVIL
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
SURRENDER, DAREDEVIL ---OR I DROP THIS GIRL!!
IF YOU DO, I'LL FINISH YOU--I SWEAR IT!!
NOT IF CAT-MAN GETS YOU FIRST, HORNHEAD!
"WHILE THE CITY SLEEPS!"
THE GREATEST 2-PART EPIC OF THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR!

Daredevil #69 house ad
(from November 1970 titles)

FACE FRONT! THE BLACK PANTHER IS ON THE PROWL AGAIN!!
--IN THE LATEST SMASH ISSUE OF--
DARE-DEVIL 15¢ 69 Oct
DAREDEVIL
THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR!
MARVEL COMICS GROUP
NOW ON SALE!

Daredevil #73 and *The Invincible Iron Man* #35 house ad
(from March 1971 titles)

HAVE WE GOT A CONTINUED STORY FOR YOU!!
IT STARTS WITH A BANG IN
IRON MAN
--AND ENDS WITH A BLAST IN
DAREDEVIL
THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR!
TWO MIGHTY MARVEL TRIUMPHS--ON SALE NOW!
DON'T DO IT, FURY!
IF YOU TOUCH THE ZODIAC KEY--YOU'LL BECOME THE MOST DANGEROUS MENACE ON EARTH!
I--DON'T WANT TO, AVENGER--
BUT--I CAN'T STOP MYSELF--!

BIOGRAPHIES

ROY THOMAS

Along with fellow fan Jerry Bails, Roy Thomas developed the first known organized comic fandom in the pages of *Alter Ego*, a self-published fanzine. Leaving his teaching position in 1965, Roy took his deep knowledge of comics characters and their history and moved to New York City, accepting a job under DC Comics editor Mort Weisinger. His stay lasted little over a week before he opted for a position at Marvel, where under Stan Lee, his duties quickly matured from proofreading to more serious work as an editorial assistant and writer.

Titles as disparate as *Modeling With Millie*, *Kid Colt* and *Sgt. Fury* were written under his auspices before he was able to fulfill his desire to write super-hero stories on Iron Man in *Tales of Suspense* #73 and a pair of Dr. Strange stories for *Strange Tales*.

Stan must have liked what he was reading, because after this seeming trial period, Roy "The Boy" (as he was called in credits) was given both *Sgt. Fury* and *The X-Men*. Along with artist Werner Roth, Thomas took the X-Men on adventures around the world and told the characters' pre-X-Men origins. In addition to introducing Banshee, Sunfire and Havok, Thomas' X-Men credits also include his watershed collaboration with artist Neal Adams.

Proving his mettle on *X-Men* led him to *The Avengers*, and it was with this team that Roy really started crafting his legacy. Across 70 consecutive issues of Earth's Mightiest Heroes, he became perhaps the title's definitive writer, introducing characters such as the Vision and penning classic sagas including the "Kree/Skrull War." Before the '60s ended, Thomas chalked up noteworthy runs as writer of *Doctor Strange*, *Sub-Mariner*, *Captain Marvel* and more.

In the '70s, Thomas' influence at Marvel widened to include the first adaptation of Robert E. Howard's *Conan the Barbarian*, a reinvention of Adam Warlock, and a new super-team, The Defenders. By 1972 Roy was selected to succeed Stan Lee as editor in chief. His tenure as EIC lasted for over two years before he returned to his writer/editor role on *Fantastic Four*, *Thor*, *Savage Sword of Conan*, *What If...?* and *The Invaders*.

In 1980, he left the House of Ideas for DC to pursue a lifelong dream by reviving the Justice Society of America in the pages of *All-Star Squadron*. He wrote many more comics for DC and Marvel over the next two decades and is still active today, writing comics, historical studies, adaptations of classic novels and publishing his award-winning *Alter Ego*. Thomas' career contributions were acknowledged with his induction into the Eisner Hall of Fame's 2011 class. He lives in South Carolina with his wife and collaborator, Dann, and an amazing menagerie of animals that must make the neighbors nervous.

GENE COLAN

Gene "The Dean" Colan spent his life as a comics artist perfecting a unique style that relied on realistic figure drawing and moody shadows. At a time when the norm lent itself to more abstract cartooning, Colan helped broaden the aesthetic range of what comics could look like.

Born in Brooklyn in 1926, Colan always had an interest in drawing, and he took up studies at the Art Students League of New York. Colan served his country during World War II in the Philippines, and though this delayed his art career, it eventually paid off with a solid acumen at drawing realistic scenes of warfare for DC Comics (*Our Army at War*, *All-American Men at War*) and the Atlas/Marvel titles (*Battle*, *Marines in Battle*, *Navy Combat*). Over the next 15 years, Colan would continue to work on war, romance, horror and sci-fi comics, as well as licensed titles like *Hopalong Cassidy*.

But when the super-hero genre broke wide open again in the '60s, Colan was ready to take it on with gusto. Under the pseudonym Adam Austin, he first drew Marvel Comics super heroes, including Namor, the Sub-Mariner in *Tales to Astonish* and Iron Man in *Tales of Suspense*. Colan then moved on to a celebrated run on *Doctor Strange* with Roy Thomas, and a stint on *Captain America*, but the Marvel character he is most often associated with is Daredevil. Colan's *Daredevil* pages were steeped in fluid, athletic grace for nearly every issue across an 80-issue run leading to #100. He also drew a handful of issues right before Frank Miller would come on board, Miller's *Daredevil* naturally owing a great debt to the already established visual precepts of the Colan era.

During the rest of the '70s, Colan displayed the diversity of his talents drawing the satirical *Howard the Duck* and the horror series *Tomb of Dracula*. The latter was drenched in the mysterious and shadowy style that Colan had evolved over the years, which reached its zenith in the service of Marvel's version of Count Dracula. He drew the entire 70-issue run.

Colan worked steadily into the '80s, once again drawing *Doctor Strange* for Marvel and also doing work for DC, including *Phantom Force*, *Silver Blade* and an extended run drawing Batman. In 2005, Colan was ushered into the Will Eisner Hall of Fame, earning well-deserved acclaim for his life's work. In 2009, Colan returned to the pages of *Captain America* to draw a World War II-based epic that would win the 2010 Eisner Award for Best Single Issue. It would prove to be his last major work in comics, as he passed away in 2011 at the age of 84.

GERRY CONWAY

In 1969, 16-year-old Gerry Conway was shopping short stories to DC and Marvel for their horror anthology books. By 1976, Conway had worked his way up to Marvel's editor in chief. In between, he logged highlight after highlight as writer for both companies.

After establishing a pedigree with horror short stories, Conway quickly became the regular writer of *Daredevil*, *Sub-Mariner* and *Iron Man*. He also began runs on *The Amazing Spider-Man* and *Thor*, picking up both titles from none other than Stan Lee. He scripted both for nearly 50 issues, writing controversial and classic tales including "The Death of Gwen Stacy," the first appearance of the Punisher, and the introduction of Harry Osborn as the Green Goblin. Cueing off his early interest in horror stories, Conway took advantage of Marvel's burgeoning line of horror comics, launching *Werewolf By Night* and *Man-Thing*, as well as writing the first issue of *Tomb of Dracula*.

In 1976, he was handed the top job at Marvel before transitioning to DC Comics. One of his first big assignments was writing the script for one of the first inter-company crossovers, *Superman vs. The Amazing Spider-Man*. Shortly thereafter, he began a long tenure on prime DC titles like *Superboy & The Legion of Super-Heroes*, *World's Finest* and *Wonder Woman*. He also introduced Firestorm with Al Milgrom in 1978, scribing all five issues of the short-lived '70s incarnation.

As the '80s dawned, he started a long run writing both key Batman titles, *Detective Comics* and *Batman*, and continued his run on *Justice League of America*, a stint that began in earnest in 1978 and would end with the dismantling of the infamous JLA Detroit in 1986. During this era, he also revived Firestorm with artist Pat Broderick; this time the title found traction and Conway wrote the first 53 issues. A return to Marvel in the late '80s saw Conway tackling two of the three Spider-Man titles: *The Spectacular Spider-Man* and *Web of Spider-Man*.

During this period, Conway was asserting himself as a writer in film and television. His early '80s screenplay collaborations with Roy Thomas resulted in the animated film *Fire and Ice* and barbarian sequel *Conan the Destroyer*. By the late '80s, his opportunities in television writing had expanded, and he left comics to pursue writing and producing for *Matlock*, *Father Dowling Mysteries*, *Diagnosis: Murder* and *Law & Order*.

Today, Conway continues writing and producing for television and has recently returned to script the occasional comic. He resides in California with his wife and their daughter.

ALLYN BRODSKY

An aspiring writer, Allyn Brodsky impressed Marvel writer/associate editor Roy Thomas with his knowledge of comics and Lovecraftian literature, and in 1969 was hired as a proofreader and assistant editor. He soon turned in his first writing assignment, a horror short titled "Evil Is a Baaaaad Scene!!" that appeared in *Tower of Shadows* #4. He wrote a few more stories for horror anthologies and also introduced the characters Hebe and Huntsman to the Hercules mythos in a *Ka-Zar* backup story. His biggest statement in comics, however, came by way of a seven-issue run as writer of *Iron Man*, where he articulated a desire to give the title a bit more of a conservative tint, to balance what he considered a stable of Marvel heroes that were too ideologically to the left. After his run on Iron Man wrapped up, he wrote Gunhawk stories for *Western Gunfighters* and then left the industry, rarely crossing paths with any he had worked with at Marvel. Despite banter to the contrary, Allyn was not related to Marvel production manager Sol Brodsky.

GARY FRIEDRICH

The early days of Gary Friedrich's life as a comics writer have a similar arc to that of teenage pal Roy Thomas. The pair befriended each other in their high school days and established a bond through their love of comics. After Thomas made the trip to New York City and started his comics career in earnest, he made it clear to his pal in Missouri that there might be a job in the field for him. Friedrich scored his first work from Dick Giordano, writing various Charlton comics including *Blue Beetle* stories drawn by none other than Steve Ditko.

At the same time, he picked up work at Marvel, his first effort being the Western *Ghost Rider* with Dick Ayers and Roy Thomas. Other contributions during this time included other Westerns like *Rawhide Kid* and *Two-Gun Kid*, as well as war titles like *Captain Savage* and *Sgt. Fury*, wherein he started a four-year run that saw him cautiously but profoundly merge a sense of social commentary and allegory into the long-running series. Beyond his work on these titles, Friedrich contributed to titles that were in transition between regular writers, including *X-Men*, *Incredible Hulk* and *Captain Marvel*.

The early '70s saw Friedrich helm Marvel's latest new war title, *Combat Kelly*, but his most significant contribution of the era was taking place in the pages of the showcase title *Marvel Spotlight*. Friedrich, along with Roy Thomas and artist Mike Ploog, introduced the flaming-skulled, chopper-riding Johnny Blaze. He wrote the first dozen stories featuring the iconic character and in the meantime wrote a faithful adaptation of Mary Shelley's classic novel in *Monster of Frankenstein*. These were to be his last major contributions to Marvel.

After a stint with the short-lived Atlas/Seaboard company in the mid-'70s and then a brief run writing *Captain Britain* stories for Marvel UK, Gary left the comics scene, though he is still a featured guest at comic conventions.

DON HECK

A native New Yorker and artist's artist, Don Heck began his comics career at Harvey Comics in 1949, but it was his dramatic covers for the Comic Media horror and war titles of the early '50s that got the attention of Stan Lee. Heck's future employer at Atlas/Marvel was engrossed by his stark images of battle-worn war heroes, creepy shrunken heads, gunshot victims, vampires and bristling cowboy action. In 1954 when Stan was searching through the list of free agent artists to hire for Atlas, Heck was extended an immediate offer.

Don attacked his Atlas assignments with aplomb, turning in page after page of work across all genres, including science fiction, jungle adventure, Westerns and romance. In fact, it was while toiling as a romance artist that Heck's reputation for stunning renderings of female beauty took hold.

Heck's most lasting contributions to the field came after the 1957 Atlas implosion. First as a member of the select cadre of artists Stan Lee brought back in 1958, and later as the artist who first defined Iron Man in the pages of *Tales of Suspense* #39, Heck's talents added a debonair flash to the Marvel line. He also earned renown for introducing the Black Widow and Hawkeye in *Tales of Suspense* #52 and #57 respectively and for his long tenure as artist on *The Avengers* with writers Stan Lee and Roy Thomas.

Heck worked throughout the '70s on titles including *The Flash*, *Justice League of America*, *Dial H for Hero* and Batgirl in *Detective Comics* and then intermittently through the early '90s for both Marvel and DC Comics. He passed away from lung cancer in 1995 at the age of 66.

Biographies researched and written by John Rhett Thomas

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THE SILVER SURFER VOLS. 1-2
THE SUB-MARINER VOLS. 1-4
THE MIGHTY THOR VOLS. 1-11
WARLOCK VOLS. 1-2
THE X-MEN VOLS. 1-8
THE UNCANNY X-MEN VOLS. 1-8

THE MARVEL AGE

It was August 1961 and change was hitting the newsstands. *Fantastic Four* #1 did not feature the squeaky-clean heroes of yesteryear. These were real characters placed in extraordinary circumstances. They lived together, they fought among themselves—and sometimes, they even lost to the bad guys. This was more than a change in attitude: It was the beginning of something entirely different—the Marvel Age of Comics!

Thanks to the fertile imaginations of Stan Lee, Jack Kirby, Steve Ditko and others, an unending list of heroes followed the FF with ever-increasing acclaim and popularity: the Amazing Spider-Man, the Mighty Thor, the Incredible Hulk, Daredevil, Iron Man and the X-Men, to name but a few. These were the Marvel heroes, born of conflict and a continuous struggle to balance human lives with superhuman responsibilities.

The *Marvel Masterworks* series was created to give comic-book readers everywhere the chance to experience the greatest comics the world has known as they were originally presented.

THE GOLDEN AGE

As the Great Depression wore on and the specter of war hung over the heads of all Americans, a new entertaining escape from the newspapers' horrifying realities was born: the comic book. Within their four-color pages, larger-than-life super heroes could make short work of America's foes, giving readers of all ages hope for victory against the real-life enemies that faced the United States.

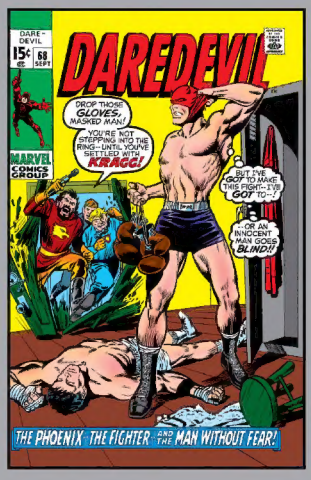
At the forefront of this new medium was Timely Comics, a young company staffed by such legendary talents as Carl Burgos, Bill Everett, Joe Simon, Jack Kirby and Stan Lee. These skilled writers and artists created a vast array of characters that would give rise to the Marvel Universe!

GOLDEN AGE ALL-WINNERS VOLS. 1-4
GOLDEN AGE CAPTAIN AMERICA VOLS. 1-6
GOLDEN AGE DARING MYSTERY VOLS. 1-2
GOLDEN AGE HUMAN TORCH VOLS. 1-3
GOLDEN AGE MARVEL COMICS VOLS. 1-7
GOLDEN AGE MYSTIC COMICS VOL. 1
GOLDEN AGE SUB-MARINER VOLS. 1-3
GOLDEN AGE U.S.A. COMICS VOLS. 1-2
GOLDEN AGE YOUNG ALLIES VOLS. 1-2

THE ATLAS ERA

Seeing super heroes waning, Timely Comics evolved into Atlas Comics and took on a vast new range of genres: science-fiction tales of outer space adventures and unimaginable monsters; realistic war comics; buxom jungle heroines; horror comics that would become the center of a moral panic that rocked the industry; and romance comics for the emerging teen audience. Even the classic costumed heroes of the '40s retooled to take on the threat of Communism. From Western gunfighters to crime to horror, Atlas had it all!

ATLAS ERA BATTLEFIELD VOL. 1
ATLAS ERA BLACK KNIGHT/YELLOW CLAW VOL. 1
ATLAS ERA HEROES VOLS. 1-3
ATLAS ERA JOURNEY INTO MYSTERY VOLS. 1-4
ATLAS ERA JUNGLE ADVENTURE VOLS. 1-3
ATLAS ERA MENACE VOL. 1
ATLAS ERA STRANGE TALES VOLS. 1-5
ATLAS ERA TALES TO ASTONISH VOLS. 1-4
ATLAS ERA TALES OF SUSPENSE VOLS. 1-4
ATLAS ERA VENUS VOL. 1



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